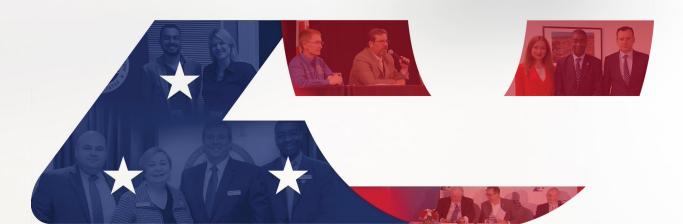


#### **U.S. Election Assistance Commission**

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



**CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF HAVA** 





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#### Meet the Commissioners









Thomas Hicks CHAIRMAN

Christy A. McCormick Benjamin Hovland VICE CHAIR

COMMISSIONER

**Donald Palmer** COMMISSIONER

As outlined in The Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the Commission is comprised of four members appointed by the president, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Commission selects a chair and vice chair from among its members, representing different political parties, for a one-year term. Any action which the Commission is authorized to carry out under HAVA may be carried out only with the approval of at least three of its members.

Commissioner Thomas Hicks was named to the position of Chairman on February 24, 2022, replacing Commissioner Donald Palmer who had served in that role during the preceding year. Commissioner Christy McCormick assumed the position of Vice Chair on the same date, replacing Commissioner Hicks.



The 2022 midterm election cycle demonstrated the critical role played by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to support state and local election officials across the country in executing safe, secure, accessible, and transparent elections. While the 2022 election was executed smoothly, the EAC and officials around the country know we must all remain vigilant of threats to undermine the security and administration of our elections. This was a pivotal year for elections in America, and for the EAC as it continued fulfilling its mission as the national clearinghouse for election administration information, testing and certification of voting systems, and the administration of Help America Vote Act grants for election security. 2022 was also an important year to reflect on progress made to date and the road ahead.



Chairman Thomas Hicks with Rhode Island Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, Department of State Staff, and Rhode Island State Director of Elections Rob Rock during early voting before the 2022 general election.

Credit: Arianna Conte, Social Media Manager, Rhode Island Department of State. This past year marked the confluence of multiple noteworthy milestones. While the nation emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, the EAC marked 20 years since the signing of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) – the landmark legislation that created the EAC and reformed election administration in this country. In many ways, we have to thank HAVA for creating the conditions for our election systems to maintain resilience in the face of major challenges. HAVA set the stage for a continuous stream of improvements that have led to expanded voting access and increased security nationwide. In the past three years Congress has also allocated \$880 million in HAVA election security grants to help support and secure our nation's elections. The immense advancements made at the local, state, and federal levels since HAVA's

passage – including safeguarding our most vulnerable populations from accessibility restraints, and establishing standards for voting systems, and rigorous testing and certification of voting equipment – make an imprint on every election.

To commemorate the anniversary of HAVA, the EAC partnered with Pepperdine University in September to host a special event, "HAVA at 20: Building Trust in Elections," reflecting on the impact of HAVA and the important issues ahead of the 2022 midterm election. The convening included all four EAC Commissioners, along with state and local election officials from around the country, federal partners, and subject matter experts.

This past year marked significant progress toward the continued implementation of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0, which will have far-reaching impacts to prepare for and safeguard future elections. In April 2022, the EAC approved the VVSG Lifecycle Policy, which facilitates migration to new VVSG standards and establishes a periodic review timeline for new standards going forward. This along with the accreditation of two Voting System Test Laboratories, are critical steps toward the realization of seeing VVSG 2.0 tested and certified systems in polling locations across the country.

The EAC also continued to emphasize the importance of voter accessibility and continual improvements in ensuring equal access for all Americans to the ballot box. In partnership with Rutgers University, the EAC released a landmark new study, "Disability, the Voting Process, and the Digital Divide." The study was conducted with a focus on computer and internet use, sources of information on the voting process used in 2020, accessibility of information sources, preferred ways of receiving information about the voting process, trust in information sources, expectations about voting and information sources in 2022, and knowledge of rights for accessible information. Access to this data is critical for election officials who are continuously working to communicate and meet the needs of their jurisdictions.

The EAC would especially like to thank and recognize the hardworking election officials at the state and local levels around the country for their ongoing work, steadfast dedication, and exemplary efforts to serve voters during 2022. Their commitment ensured a smooth election cycle, despite facing a range of challenges, including election budget constraints and poll worker recruitment struggles. The need to provide citizens with voter education is ongoing and increasing which highlights the importance of civic engagement education from the EAC to rebut myths or misinformation about the voting systems and process.

Despite the notable progress and milestones reached in 2022, the EAC remains concerned and appalled by threats of violence against our nation's election officials. While no official should be faced with harassment or threats, we understand the role of the EAC is to continually evolve to meet the everchanging landscape of elections in the United States. Providing resources to officials and their staff to help them remain safe and get the support they need, including security and mental health support, will remain an EAC priority.

If the last few years have reinforced one thing, it is that the world will always be watching the U.S. as a leader in democracy and election administration. How we meet the needs and challenges of our elections – at all levels – reverberates throughout the globe. We must continue living up to those expectations, and the EAC is honored and dedicated to leading our nation's approach to election administration.

Hora John

Thomas Hicks, Chairman, U.S. Election Assistance Commission



Thomas Hicks

Thomas Hicks was nominated by President Barack H. Obama and confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate on December 16, 2014, to serve on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Mr. Hicks currently serves as Chairman of the EAC and Designated Federal Officer (DFO) of the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC).

Commissioner Hicks has focused his efforts on voter access. Under his leadership, the EAC developed a pocket-sized voter card that serves as a guide on voting rights for voters with disabilities. The card is provided in both Braille and large print. The EAC has worked with advocacy groups and election officials to distribute the card.

In addition, Mr. Hicks has addressed the difficulties overseas voters have when requesting and returning their ballots, such as dealing with foreign IP addresses and issues with timely ballot delivery. He worked with key states to set up a help desk. Now, overseas voters receive an email response directing them to the help desk to obtain their ballots.

Mr. Hicks continues to emphasize the need for more young people to become involved as poll workers and in the voting process, he was recently featured in the New York Times Magazine, highlighting his efforts.

Mr. Hicks is a frequent speaker at conferences in the United States and overseas on issues such as voter access, cybersecurity and election official safety.

Prior to his appointment with the EAC, Commissioner Hicks served as a senior elections counsel and minority elections counsel on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, a position he held from 2003 to 2014. In this role, Mr. Hicks was responsible for issues relating to campaign finance, election reform, contested elections and oversight of both the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and the Federal Election Commission. His primary responsibility was advising and providing guidance to the committee members and caucus on election issues. Mr. Hicks has talked with Americans in every state about their voting experiences. In addition, he has worked with state and local election officials across America to address critical election concerns.

Prior to joining the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Hicks served as a senior lobbyist and policy analyst from 2001 to 2003 for Common Cause, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that empowers citizens to make their voices heard in the political process and to hold their elected leaders accountable to the public interest. Mr. Hicks has enjoyed working with state and local election officials, civil rights organizations, and all other stakeholders to improve the voting process.

Mr. Hicks served from 1993 to 2001 in the Clinton administration as a special assistant and legislative assistant in the Office of Congressional Relations for the Office of Personnel Management. He served as agency liaison to the United States Congress and the president's administration on matters regarding federal personnel policies and regulations.

Mr. Hicks received his J.D. from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law and his B.A. in Government from Clark University (Worcester, MA). He also studied at the University of London (London, England) and law at the University of Adelaide (Adelaide, Australia).



EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks and Vermont Secretary of State Jim Condos during a visit in August 2022.



Christy A. McCormick

Christy A. McCormick was nominated by President Barack H. Obama and confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate on December 16, 2014, to serve on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Ms. McCormick has twice served as Chair and currently serves as Vice Chair of the EAC and the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Local Leadership Council. She led the Commission's restructuring after several years without commissioners, created the first election data summit, and the first election accessibility summit focused on language. She has met with voters and legislators across the country and observed in elections in nearly all the states.

From 2006 until her appointment with the EAC, Ms. McCormick served as a senior trial attorney prosecuting discrimination violations of federal voting statutes in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice (USDOJ). Ms. McCormick was detailed by the Deputy Attorney General to be senior attorney advisor and acting deputy rule of law coordinator in the Office of the Rule of Law Coordinator at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq from 2009 to 2010, where she worked as the U.S. elections expert overseeing the Iraq national elections (including an extensive election recount), as well as on numerous U.S. and coalition Rule of Law efforts.

Prior to joining the USDOJ, Ms. McCormick served as a Judicial Clerk to the Honorable Elizabeth A. McClanahan in the Court of Appeals of Virginia from 2003 to 2006. Ms. McCormick was an Assistant Attorney General and Assistant to the Solicitor General in the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia from 2001 to 2003. She was a member of the U.S. Supreme Court legal teams for Black v. Virginia (defending the Commonwealth's criminal statute against cross-burning) and Hicks v. Virginia (defending a 1st Amendment challenge to a state trespassing policy), as well as in cases on appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. She was a Judicial Law Clerk in Virginia's Seventh Judicial Circuit Court from 1999 to 2001.

Ms. McCormick received her B.A. from the University of Buffalo, a J.D. with honors from the George Mason University School of Law (now Antonin Scalia Law School), and also attended the William & Mary School of Law.



Benjamin Hovland

Benjamin Hovland was confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate on January 2, 2019, to serve on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Mr. Hovland currently serves as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Board of Advisors.

In 2020, Commissioner Hovland served as EAC Chairman and helped lead the agency during an election year with unprecedented challenges. Under his leadership, the EAC administered nearly \$825 million in federal grant money to help election officials respond to the pandemic and enhance election security. In addition to distributing critical funding, the EAC strategically pivoted resources to help election officials as they confronted obstacles and made difficult decisions of how to best run their elections.

As EAC Chairman, Mr. Hovland also served as Co-Chair of Election Infrastructure Subsector's Government Coordinating Council and Chair of the Joint Subsector COVID-19 Working Group to coordinate pandemic response amongst state and local election officials, federal partners, and the private sector. Other innovations under his leadership included the first-ever National Poll Worker Recruitment Day, which led national recruitment efforts to alleviate concerns about a significant shortage in poll workers due to the pandemic.

During Commissioner Hovland's tenure as Chairman, the EAC also adopted a new version of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG). Known as VVSG 2.0, this represents the first major overhaul of the standards in 15 years and a major leap forward for future election systems.

Mr. Hovland's career in elections spans over 20 years and includes service as Acting Chief Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, where he was a driving force behind Congress appropriating \$380 million in Help America Vote Act (HAVA) funds to enhance election security to the states in 2018. While at the Senate, he focused on the federal government's role in election administration and campaign finance regulation. He organized several hearings on election security preparations and improving election administration. He was integral to pushing for the restoration of a quorum at the EAC in 2015.

Earlier in his career, as the Deputy General Counsel for the Missouri Secretary of State's office, he focused on legal issues related to the administration of state and federal elections, including recounts, poll worker training, voter registration list maintenance, statewide database matching, voter education resources and ballot initiative litigation.



Donald Palmer
COMMISSIONER

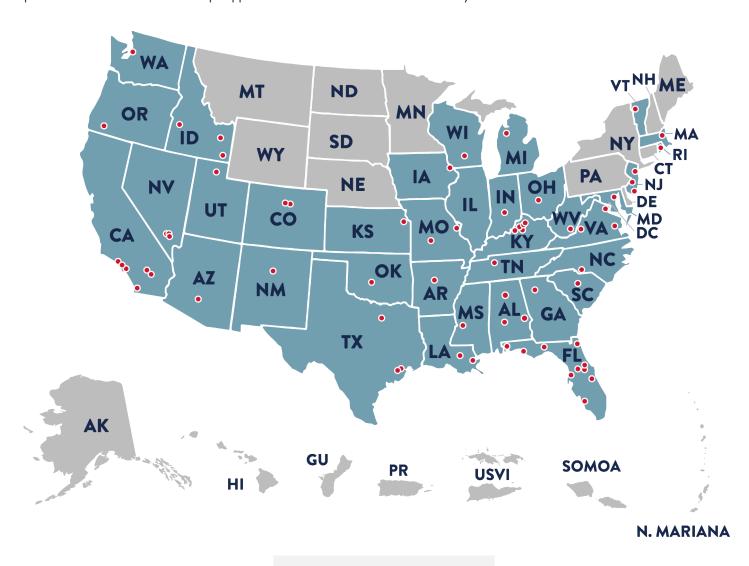
Donald Palmer was nominated by President Donald J. Trump and confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate on January 2, 2019, to serve as a United States Election Assistance Commission (EAC) Commissioner. During his term as EAC Chairman, Mr. Palmer and the Commission instituted a process to establish security and accessibility standards for electronic poll books as part of an EAC testing pilot of nonvoting technology. The initiative resulted in the establishment of the Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program (ESTEP) for the testing of all election technology, particularly related to the Help America Vote Act. During his tenure as Chairman, Commissioner Palmer added Clearinghouse responsibilities to provide language translation and ADA accessibility best practices for states and localities. Mr. Palmer has served as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) of the EAC's Standards Board on multiple occasions and recently as the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) during the implementation phase of VVSG 2.0, including the adoption of the Lifecycle Policy for the new generation of voting systems and the addition of new penetration testing requirements for future testing campaigns of all voting systems submitted to EAC accredited laboratories.

Mr. Palmer is a former Bipartisan Policy Center Fellow where he advanced the recommendations of the Presidential Commission on Election Administration. Mr. Palmer is a former Secretary of the Virginia State Board of Elections and served as the Commonwealth's Chief Election Official from 2011 to 2014. During his tenure, he implemented an online voter registration system and program to review the security and usability of voting systems and electronic poll books. He also served as Florida's Director of Elections where he successfully transitioned the state from electronic voting machines to paper-based digital voting machines prior to the 2008 presidential election and expanded the Florida voting system state certification program. Palmer established Virginia as a founding member of the Election Registration Information Center (ERIC), a group of states working together to maintain the accuracy of voter registration rolls and the identification of registrants who may have registered or voted in multiple states. Prior to his work in election administration, he served as a trial attorney with the Voting Section in the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, where he enforced the nation's federal voting laws. Palmer is a military veteran, retiring from the U.S. Navy after two decades as an intelligence officer and judge advocate general.

Mr. Palmer earned his J.D. at the Stetson University College of Law and his master's degree at George Washington University.

#### Commissioner Stakeholder Engagement

Throughout FY 2022, EAC Commissioners visited with stakeholders from a variety of sectors at the local, state, federal, and international levels. The map below indicates the breadth of EAC engagement across the country throughout the year. The EAC anticipates further engagement in FY 2023, as Commissioners and staff meet with election officials and the important professional associations that help support and train officials across the country.



#### Foreign Travel

Stockholm, Sweden Toronto, Ontario, Canada Montreal, Quebec, Canada Italy



Mark A. Robbins
INTERIM EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

#### **Executive Director Letter**

It is said that "you can never go home again."

When the Commissioners invited me back to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to serve as interim Executive Director in January 2022, I was leery. The Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA) sets out a complicated process for selecting an executive director that can take a while. So, I agreed to return to the EAC, where I served as General Counsel and acting executive director from 2010-2012, while the Commissioners conducted a search for a permanent hire.

I came home again and discovered that not only can you come home again, but you can also find home a much better place than you remembered it.

When I left the EAC 12 years ago, the agency had a tense relationship with Congress and many of our stakeholders in the states. Our budget was lean and shrinking, as was our staff. We lost a quorum of Commissioners, and then lost all of them. Today, the quorum has been restored, our budget has increased to allow for a robust and growing staff, more able to meet our responsibilities under HAVA. The EAC has met the challenges that have come its way, including the recent pandemic, and is now better positioned to move forward and continue to successfully fulfill our mission.

As the only federal agency solely focused on election administration, EAC provides support to thousands of election officials across the nation who are ensuring safe, secure, accessible, and accurate elections for all eligible Americans.

The Commissioners have set certain priorities for EAC staff. This report discusses them in greater detail, but I will highlight a few here.

Over the last year, we have advanced multiple priorities as we strive to fulfill that mission. One of the developments that I am most proud of is the expansion of our clearinghouse capability. Since 2021, we have a growing staff of subject matter experts—the vast majority of whom are former local election officials—who visited communities, attended conferences where they shared information on EAC resources, and developed more than 40 resources on a range of election administration topics, as well as customizable resources for election offices. They are vital additions who work with other EAC divisions to enable the EAC to proactively address the needs of election officials.

This wealth of information and work products are not effective if stakeholders are unable to easily access it. That is why we have made redesigning our website a priority and, this year, have begun the process of developing and implementing a new system that will be accessible and more user-friendly.

The EAC has met the challenges that have come its way, including the recent pandemic, and is now better positioned to move forward and continue to successfully fulfill our mission.

Implementation of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0 made significant progress this year, due in large part to the dedication of EAC staff and the further development of the Testing and Certification team. The approval of the VVSG Lifecycle Policy creates a transparent and predictable path for future updates to the VVSG

and brings a new maturity to the process. At the end of 2022, two Voting System Test Labs (VSTLs) were accredited to test voting systems to the VVSG 2.0, which enables the EAC to focus attention on supporting testing and certifying voting systems built to the new standards. This is an exciting time that has been years in the making with countless hours of hard work from EAC staff.

In 2022, the EAC managed the successful distribution of \$75 million in HAVA election security grants. Staff continued to provide support and guidance on how the funds could be used and implemented new software to not only assist election officials in fulfilling reporting requirements but improving the EAC's ability to provide timely and extensive reports.

The Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS), will add valuable data to the story of the 2022 elections. The EAC continued to work to ease the burden of collecting this data for election officials while planning to make the report more useful for all users when it is released in 2023.

Finally, given the current election landscape and climate, the EAC adopted a policy of transparency so that all our stakeholders, including ultimately the American people, are aware of what the agency is doing and how it is conducting business. This policy was developed to be consistent with both national security and intellectual property concerns.

When the Commissioners install the next Executive Director in 2023, I will once again leave home for adventures elsewhere. But the home's foundation is sturdy. Its roof is in fine condition. The yard is tidy. The home is respected and admired by many. This annual report reflects that the family inside it is resourceful, intelligent, hardworking, and dedicated to the mission set out in HAVA. It has been my honor to be home again for the past year.



#### General Counsel's Updates

#### Votes Taken By the Commission

As required by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Section 207(4), the following section documents all votes taken by the Commission through September 30, 2022, for the preceding fiscal year. The following also includes votes taken through the calendar year:

Subject	Result of Vote	Decided by a vote of	Date Transmitted	Certified Date
Adopting the accreditation of Voting System Testing Lab (VSTL) Pro V&V to test voting systems to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0	Approve	4-0	12/21/2022	12/21/2022
Adopting the accreditation of Voting System Testing Lab (VSTL) SLI Compliance to test voting systems to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0	Approve	4-0	11/15/2022	11/15/2022
Adopting the VVSG Lifecycle Policy: October 2022 Update	Approve	4-0	10/7/2022	10/7/2022
Reappointment of Mark A. Robbins as EAC Interim Executive Director	Approve	4-0	7/27/2022	7/29/2022
Adopting the 2022 Guide to the Election Administration and Voting Survey	Approve	4-0	7/18/2022	7/21/2022
Funding Decision No. 22-01: The Use of HAVA Funds for Physical Security Security Services and Threat Monitoring	Approve	4-0	5/26/2022	5/29/2022
Adopting the VVSG Lifecycle Policy	Approve	4-0	4/5/2022	4/5/2022
Appoint EAC Chair and Vice Chair	Approve	4-0	2/12/2022	2/16/2022
Appoint Designated Federal Officers for Standards Board, Board of Advisors, Technical Guidelines Development Committee, and Local Leadership Council	Approve	4-0	2/12/2022	2/16/2022
Appointment of Mark A. Robbins as Interim Executive Director	Approve	4-0	2/5/2022	2/5/2022

## Executive Summary

#### Our Mission: Helping America Vote

In November 2017, the EAC adopted the following mission and vision statements for the agency.

#### Mission Statement

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission helps election officials improve the administration of elections and helps Americans participate in the voting process.

#### Vision Statement

A trusted, proactive, and responsive federal agency that helps election officials administer and voters participate in elections.

Per Section 207 of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) is required to submit an Annual Report to Congress. This report details the agency's activities during FY2022, as well as the 2022 calendar year, and our efforts to further the mission of the EAC. The EAC made significant accomplishments and contributions that helped to ensure a successful 2022 election cycle.

#### **Grants Administration**



Chairman Thomas Hicks addressing members of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) during the NASS 2022 Summer Conference in Baton Rouge, LA.

Philip Smith, 1LPhoto

In FY 2021, the EAC made the grants program into a standalone office to reflect the importance of its function to the agency. The Office of Grants Management reports to the Executive Director and is responsible for issuing grant awards, providing guidance on the appropriate use of funds, overseeing and monitoring all state grant activities through financial and progress reporting, providing technical assistance on grants administration, preparing financial reports for Congress, working with recipients on recommendations to resolve audits conducted by OIG, and closing out grants when all revenue is expended.

In FY 2022, EAC began the transition to GrantSolutions, an integrated grants management system. The new system will streamline the management and monitoring of HAVA grants through the entire life cycle of the awards. Grantees will be able to apply for funding, manage and view grant awards, submit reports, and communicate with EAC staff through the system starting Q1 in FY2023.

The HAVA Election Security funds appropriated in 2018, 2020, and 2022 totaled \$880 million - \$380 million in 2018, \$425 million in 2020, and \$75 million in 2022. Congress authorized HAVA Election Security funds under Title I Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. In FY 2022, the EAC awarded the latest appropriation of grants to states to improve the administration of federal elections, including to enhance technology and make election security improvements. The grants to 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia total \$874,067,280. In FY 2022, the grants office provided technical assistance to the 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia as they used the funding for improving the administration of federal elections.

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) included \$400 million in HAVA funds, made available to states to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus for the 2020 federal election cycle. In FY 2022, multiple training events were held to support the reporting and closeout requirements for CARES. The Grants Office also implemented a debt collection process to return unexpended federal funds and unexpended interest earned to the U.S. Treasury.

In FY 2022, the EAC continued the closeout process with individual grants for which activities had concluded and financials were reconciled, closing 19 CARES grants in FY 2022 for a total of 45 of 56 grants closed. The EAC expects to close the remaining 11 grants in FY 2023. Many states spent all their funding, while some states have returned federal funds including interest earned on those funds. The federal funds returned in FY 2022 totaled \$20,555,358.

The EAC's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audits the states' use of the funds, and the EAC grants team worked with the OIG to resolve and close out audit findings. In FY 2021, the EAC's OIG launched audits of eight states use of HAVA funds, including Arizona, California, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Six of the audits were finished, and the final reports issued in FY 2022. The agency is working to resolve and close audit recommendations for Arizona, Delaware, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Ohio had no findings or recommendations. Georgia's audit was cancelled to avoid duplication of efforts with a state audit that identified deficiencies. In FY 2022, the OIG started HAVA audits for Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Missouri, North Carolina, Northern Mariana Islands, and Wisconsin. The final reports are expected in FY 2023.



Vice Chair Christy McCormick speaking at the November 15 hearing.

#### Implementation Of the VVSG 2.0

As outlined in HAVA, a core function of the EAC includes adopting and modifying the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG), testing and certifying voting systems against these voluntary guidelines, and accrediting Voting System Test Laboratories (VSTLs). The progress made with the approval and implementation of the VVSG 2.0 signifies advancements



EAC Director of Testing and Certification Jon Panek, EAC's CIO/CISO Jessica Bowers, Vice Chair Christy McCormick, Commissioner Donald Palmer, Senior Election Security Advisor for the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Kim Wyman, Chairman Thomas Hicks, and Justin Forbes from CISA's Critical Product Evaluation team at the Idaho National Laboratory in August 2022.

for the security of voting systems and election infrastructure for years to come.

The EAC Commissioners approved in February 2021 documents for the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0, including the Principles and Guidelines, the Testing and Certification Program Manual, the Voting System Test Laboratory Manual, and the VVSG 2.0 Test Assertions. The VVSG 2.0 was the most significant update to the voting standards since the adoption of the original VVSG in 2005. VVSG 2.0 contained much needed improvements in cybersecurity, accessibility, and usability requirements and supports various audit methods reinforcing software independence to confirm the accuracy of the vote and increase voter confidence.

Implementation of the VVSG 2.0 continued throughout 2022. A significant step in this process was the unanimous approval by the EAC Commissioners of the new VVSG Lifecycle Policy that provides guidance to stakeholders on matters such as obsolete VVSG standard deprecation, how often the standards will be updated, and version control for future guidelines.

The EAC's VVSG Lifecycle Policy was adopted to create a transparent and predictable path for future updates to the VVSG and better formalize the process. This will allow the standards to evolve with the needs of election officials and future voting system technologies in a more iterative fashion that keeps pace with innovations in technology and election administration.

The 'Auditable' principle of VVSG 2.0 states that voting systems be auditable and enable evidence-based elections. The VVSG 2.0 requirements specify that software independent voting systems must produce voter-verifiable paper records or implement an approved cryptographic E2E (End-to-End) verifiable voting protocol.



The EAC Commissioners at the November 15 hearing.

The VVSG 2.0 calls for any E2E verifiable cryptographic protocol used by a cryptographic E2E verifiable voting system to be evaluated and approved through a public process established by the EAC. Approval of E2E verifiable protocols is not necessary for voting equipment to be tested against the new standard. This is only necessary to fully realize the software independence requirements.

The EAC continues to work with NIST cryptography experts to establish this process. As part of this process the EAC partnered with NIST in October 2022 to host a two-day virtual conference,

titled "The Path to End-to-End (E2E) Protocols for Voting Systems." This workshop discussed the plan and further developed the protocol requirements and evaluation criteria for E2E verifiable protocols.

In 2022, the EAC and the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) National Voluntary Lab Accreditation Program (NVLAP) performed accreditation assessments of both VSTLs for the biennial review of their accreditation as well as to have their accreditation scope updated to add VVSG 2.0. The assessments for SLI Compliance were completed in September and the assessments for Pro V&V were completed in December.

During a public hearing on November 15, 2022, the EAC Commissioners unanimously voted to approve the accreditation of SLI Compliance to test voting systems against VVSG 2.0. The Commissioners also unanimously voted on December 21, 2022, to accredit Pro V&V as the second Voting System Test Laboratory (VSTL) able to test voting systems to the VVSG 2.0. Accreditation of a VSTL to test systems against VVSG 2.0 represents the final milestone in the implementation process and enables the EAC to accept applications to test and certify equipment to the new standard.



The EAC Commissioners pose with Traci Mapps and Mike Santos from SLI Compliance after the Commissioners unanimously voted accredit SLI Compliance as the first Voting System Testing Lab (VSTL) able to test voting systems to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0.

#### **Enhancing Election Security**

The EAC launched the Cyber Access and Security program (CAS) in 2020 to provide access to security training, best practices, expertise, and other assistance for election officials tasked with protecting critical election infrastructure. In 2022, the program brought additional attention to the EAC's internal security in response to Executive Order 14028, Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity, by establishing plans to move information technology assets toward a zero-trust architecture. The EAC fully on-boarded with the CISA CDM program for automated reporting of vulnerability and remediation data.

The program also continued the build of a new online portal for election administrators to be able to share information and collaborate on topics relevant to voting administration. Phase 1 of this project was completed and included the basic infrastructure for the site such as user authentication, site structure, user support and ticketing system, data visualizations, and other building blocks.

In 2021, the EAC began developing a pilot program to assist election officials as they continue to expand their use of electronic poll books, or e-poll books. The goal of the pilot program is to help alleviate some of the burden currently shouldered by states in developing and maintaining e-poll book standards as well as the testing of broadly applicable functionality such as security, accessibility, and usability.

As the use of election supporting technology increases and evolves, the national security implications grow along with that. As a result, throughout 2022, the EAC has continued steps to develop the e-poll book pilot, including hiring its first Director of Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program (ESTEP), whose responsibilities will be to oversee testing and standardizing election supporting technologies with the goal of EAC program certification. An initial set of requirements was developed by the EAC and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). As of December 2022, the requirements were being circulated to stakeholders including voting system test labs (VSTLs) and the EAC's advisory boards for feedback.

As the EAC looks toward 2023, the goal is to ensure there is a comprehensive set of testable requirements that will allow the EAC to obtain feedback on the testing procedures and readiness of both manufacturers and labs to participate in this type of testing. As part of the next steps, the EAC will recruit manufacturers to be a part of the process so a representative sample of systems can be tested. The EAC aims to begin testing two to three systems by the end of the first quarter of 2023.

#### Assisting Election Officials And Voters

In 2022, the EAC continued to assist and support election officials and voters through the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), robust congressional activity, voter registration and education efforts, the creation of new EAC resources, and the celebration of Help America Vote Day and National Poll Worker Recruitment Day.

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002 created new mandatory minimum standards for states to follow in numerous key areas of election administration and provided funding to help meet these new standards. It also established the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) as an independent, bipartisan federal agency, solely focused on monitoring and improving election administration.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) partnered with Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy to host "HAVA at 20: Building Trust in Elections," a special event that brought together election officials, federal partners, and subject matter experts from across the country to discuss important issues ahead of the 2022 midterm election and reflect on the impact of HAVA. Taking place on September 1, 2022, at Pepperdine's campus in Southern California, the event featured four panels to discuss topics such as election mis- and disinformation, security and technology, current issues facing our nation's elections, and, critically, the future of HAVA.

The EAC participated in over 20 briefings and in-person meetings with Congressional members and their staff, engaged in official Congressional correspondence with more than 10 detailed responses to informational inquiries and more than 18 communications related to grants services and HAVA Funds, and provided guidance on the impact paper supply shortages will have on elections and mitigation strategies. Additionally, in April 2022, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) responded to the EAC's request for an opinion on the lawful use of funds made available to states under HAVA and subsequently appropriated by Congress.

The EAC continued its voter registration and education efforts in 2022 by maintaining and updating the National Mail Voter Registration Form into six new languages, offering information to about 2.8 million visitors to the EAC.gov website, and partnering with the General Service Administration (GSA) to increase the functionality of the vote.gov website.

The EAC established National Poll Worker Recruitment Day in 2020 to raise awareness about the valued role of poll workers in the elections process and inspire greater civic engagement by encouraging people to sign up to "Help America Vote." The second annual National Poll Worker Recruitment Day was held on January 25, 2022, with the intention of giving state and local election officials around the country more lead time before the midterm elections, underscoring the year-round challenge that face recruiting and training poll workers.

Amid the agency's ongoing HAVA at 20 celebrations, the EAC designated August 16, 2022, as the first-ever Help America Vote Day, a second day of action created following the success of January's National Poll Worker Recruitment Day. In advance of the midterm election, the EAC heard from election officials that more assistance was needed to bolster poll worker recruitment at the state and local levels.

State and local election offices in 41 states participated in these efforts. As a federal agency, the EAC drove traffic to HelpAmericaVote.gov that includes a lookup tool with continually updated information for thousands of local election jurisdictions including applications and requirements for election workers. Over the course of the year, the EAC's two poll worker focused webpages, including HelpAmericaVote.gov, had over 263,000 page views.

Over the past year, the EAC released approximately 40 resources that addressed issues facing election officials and election workers across the nation, including physical safety threats, protecting the integrity of election results, and ensuring voters with disabilities and those with language barriers can participate fully in the election process.



#### **Promoting Accessibility**

The EAC made major efforts in 2022 to continue to champion accessibility in election administration, with a specific focus on identifying advancements and gaps in accessibility for voters with disabilities. The EAC conducted a national survey with researchers from Rutgers University ahead of the 2022 midterm elections as a follow-up to a study on disability and voting accessibility conducted by Rutgers and the EAC in 2021.

The full report, titled "Disability, the Voting Process, and the Digital Divide" was released on July 26, 2022, and focused on computer and internet use, sources of information on the voting process used in 2020, accessibility of information sources, preferred ways of receiving information about the voting process, trust in information sources, expectations about voting and information sources in 2022, and knowledge of rights for accessible information.

The results of the study illuminate the longstanding and critical consequences of the digital divide between people with and without disabilities. Throughout 2022, the EAC called on these findings to produce best-practice focused products and services, as well as public forums for both voters with disabilities and the election officials who serve them.

In 2022, the EAC released Best Practices: Accessible In-Person Voting and Best Practices: Accessible Voting by Mail, which contained checklists and best practices to improve accessibility for voters. These resources build on the best practices guide released in 2021 for accessible voter registration. With in-person voting the most widely available voting option, and with the expansion of voting by mail, it is important that election officials and other decision makers evaluate every component of the process to ensure voters with disabilities can access them. The EAC continues to update these best practices as it strives to ensure that voters with disabilities can participate fully in our electoral process.

Under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), 330 jurisdictions across the nation are required to provide some form of language assistance during elections for specific language minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the voting process.

The EAC created a searchable map using the newly released designations and data from the U.S. Census Bureau and business intelligence software to show which jurisdictions are currently covered under Section 203 and look up language requirements by jurisdiction. The EAC developed several best practice resources following the announcement of covered jurisdictions including Best Practices for Unwritten Languages, Guide to Language Access and Accessibility, and the EAC Language Access Program Checklist.

The EAC also hosted a virtual Language Access Roundtable on February 17, 2022 highlighting a range of issues state and local election officials should consider when adopting new language requirements or recently losing section language requirements.

Alongside the National Mail Voter Registration Form, in FY 2022 the EAC also translated the **Glossary of Election Terminology** into 20 languages. The glossary includes nearly 1,300 terms and phrases and serves as a resource not only for election officials who have new or increased language requirements but also for voters hoping to better learn and understand election-specific phrases.

In January 2022, the EAC also released **VOTING 101**: **Election Information for New Voters** which addresses commonly asked questions on different aspects of voting. This printable resource for election officials is intended to cover the basic questions new voters have and to share resources to find out more information. The EAC translated a trifold and handout versions of this resource into 20 languages.

#### Highlighting Best Practices

Under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), the EAC is charged with serving as a clearinghouse for election administration information. One way the EAC meets this responsibility is the annual Clearinghouse Awards, or "Clearies." This program recognizes election officials' and their offices' contributions to best practices in election administration in a range of categories. Throughout the six years of the program's operation, the EAC has received over 325 entries, proving a measure of successful engagement of the program.



The EAC issued 2021 Clearie awards to 20 programs with honorees ranging from large states with more than 10 million voters to townships of less than 100,000 residents. The EAC also recognized 14 offices and their efforts for Clearie Honorable Mention awards.

The EAC started returning to in-person events in 2022, but the benefits and flexibility offered by virtual events and video series continued to be a valuable resource as the EAC shared information and best practices with stakeholders. The EAC continued developing video series and featured videos

to highlight best practices in election offices across the country. These include videos such as Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) month, Women's History Month, Black History Month, and Native American Heritage Month as well as cybersecurity.



EAC staff attended the November 15th hearing in the EAC's new office space joined the Commissioners to celebrate the important step for the agency.

#### Agency Development

The EAC continued to modernize operations in 2022 and transition back to in-person work. EAC staff onboarded 10 employees and eight interns in a wide variety of mission-critical roles. With 10 new full-time staff members onboarded, this represents a 20% increase in agency personnel. Staff positions included Senior Election Subject Matter Expert, Compliance Officer, Grants Specialist, Finance Specialist, Contractor Officer Representative (COR), Director of Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program, Election Technology Specialist, and several Senior Election Technology Specialists. The EAC continued its intern program for current students interested in elections. Eight interns from across the country were provided with assignments that combined their theoretical studies with hands-on mission-critical projects.

The EAC completed its office relocation in 2021. Throughout FY 2022 EAC staff continued to work virtually due to the buildout of the new space, but significant progress was made to prepare the office for the return of in-person operations, which are anticipated for early 2023. These preparations included the completion of the new hearing room that will allow the agency to host on-site meetings and events. On November 15, 2022, the EAC held its first in-person public meeting in this space. On March 15, 2022, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 which provided the EAC with \$20 million in agency operating funds for FY 2022, including \$1.5 million made available to NIST. This reflects a \$3 million increase in overall funding from FY 2021 and a 19% increase specifically in program operating funds when excluding NIST funding.

# Administering HAVA Funds

The Office of Grants Management (Grants Office) reports to the Executive Director. The Grants Office issues grant awards, provides guidance on the appropriate use of funds, oversees and monitors all state grant activities through financial and progress reporting, provides technical assistance on grants administration, prepares financial reports for Congress, works with recipients on recommendations to resolve audits conducted by the OIG, and closes out grants when all revenue is expended. Since the EAC was established, the agency has distributed and supported the effective administration of more than \$4 billion in Congressionally appropriated HAVA funds. Grants staff supported the effective administration of previously awarded HAVA Section 101 and 251 grants, \$880 million in new HAVA election security grants, and the closeout of \$400 million in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funds.

Training and technical assistance is a service provided regularly by the EAC Grants Office to the states as they plan and implement HAVA funding. In FY 2022, staff provided remote technical assistance via email, conference calls and webinars, and published guidance to the agency website. The team responded to inquiries regarding allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary expenditures and funding activities. EAC staff created guidance and held multiple training sessions to support reporting requirements and the online submission process. Lessons learned from previous reporting periods were used to enhance annual and mid-year training sessions with additional guidance on how to avoid common errors in reporting.

In FY 2022, EAC began the transition to GrantSolutions, an integrated grants management system. The new system will streamline the management and monitoring of HAVA grants through the entire life cycle of the awards. Grantees will be able to apply for funding, manage and view grant awards, submit reports, and communicate with EAC staff through the system starting Q1 in FY2023.

This section of the EAC's annual report includes information on grant allocations and ongoing reporting of remaining funds. Charts detailing expenditures and remaining funds are available in the appendix. The EAC publishes financial and progress reports detailing how states spent the funds on its website, EAC.gov.





#### **HAVA Election Security Funding**

The HAVA Election Security funds appropriated in 2018, 2020, and 2022 totaled \$880 million, \$380 million in 2018, \$425 million in 2020, and \$75 million in 2022. Congress authorized HAVA Election Security funds under Title I Section 101 of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002. In FY 2022, the EAC awarded the latest appropriation of grants to states to improve the administration of federal elections, including to enhance technology and make election security improvements. The grants to 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia total \$874,067,280. In FY 2022, the grants office provided technical assistance to the 50 states, five territories and the District of Columbia as they used the funding for improving the administration of federal elections.

Through September 2022, the states collectively reported spending roughly 59% of the \$804,978,600 million distributed before the FY 2022 funds were awarded. The Election Security grant narratives, budgets and reports can be found at: https://www.eac.gov/payments-and-grants/election-security-funds. See state-by-state expenditure tables in Appendix.

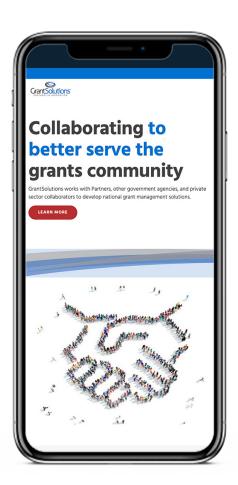
#### Previously Awarded HAVA Funds (Section 101 and 251)

The EAC continued to support states' expenditures of previously awarded HAVA Section 101 and 251 grants in FY 2022. In FY 2022, there were 31 states with open Section 251 grants and 18 states with open Section 101 grants.

#### HAVA Section 251 Requirements Payments Funding

Requirements Payments are used to meet the requirements of Title III Uniform and Nondiscriminatory Election Technology and Administration Requirements of HAVA. Title III requirements include voting system standards, voting information requirements, provisional voting, statewide voter registration lists, and identification requirements for voters who register by mail. In FY 2022, the grants office monitored Section 251 Requirements Payment grants of \$1,660,917,506 to 31 states. The EAC also closed one grant that was fully expended in FY2022. See state-by-state expenditure tables in Appendix.





#### **HAVA Section 101 Funding**

Section 101 funds are more generally available for activities "to improve the administration of federal elections." Activities include educating voters on voting rights, voting procedures and voting technology; training election officials and poll workers; improving, acquiring, leasing or replacing voting equipment; improving the accessibility and quality of polling places (including for voters with limited English proficiency); and hotlines for voters to obtain election information and/or report complaints of fraud or voting rights violations.

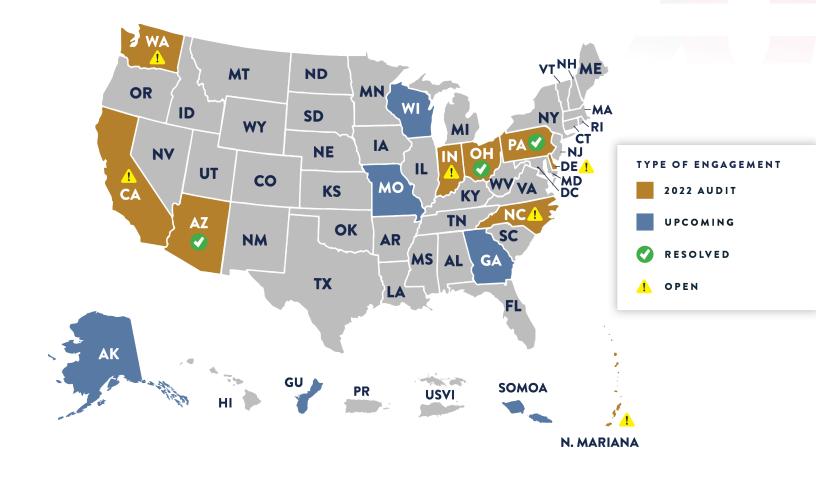
In FY 2022, the grants office monitored Section 101 grants in the amount of \$151,343,283 to 18 states. EAC also closed five grants that were fully expended in FY2022. See state-by-state expenditure tables in the Appendix.

#### Capacity Building

The agency renewed its agreement to work with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the negotiation of Indirect Cost Rate Agreement for its grantees in FY 2022. The agreement will not continue in FY 2023 due to capacity issues at HHS for this service. The agency will be working with the Department of Interior in FY 2023 for these services.

The EAC selected GrantSolutions, HHS's grants administration software as a service to improve and automate its grants administration functions so more time can be spent for strategic activities and technical support to grantees. Utilization of a grant system will reduce grantee time spent on administrative activities, freeing up staff time to execute and oversee grant activities. The GrantSolutions award management system will allow the EAC to standardize financial assistance management procedures and increase transparency, accountability, and oversight of financial assistance funding. With a grant system, staff can devote more time to developing more technical assistance training for award management, best practices, audit readiness, and education on federal assistance grants administration. The EAC conducted a fit gap analysis with GrantsSolutions in September 2021 to assess current business processes against system capabilities and options. The EAC prioritized the deployment of the system for calendar year 2022 ahead of the next annual report deadline. The Grants Office was all hands-on deck for the manual migration of grant data and onboarding the new system. The EAC deployed the system in FY 2023 ahead of the next grant reporting cycle deadline of December 29, 2022.

In FY 2022, personnel changes included recruiting and hiring a third full-time Grants Management Specialist (GMS) to oversee and support increased grantmaking responsibilities. All three personnel took required grants courses towards their federal track certification.



#### Oversight and Monitoring

The EAC is mandated to monitor and provide oversight for all HAVA grants. During FY 2022, staff reviewed Federal Financial Reports (FFRs) and accompanying Progress Reports submitted by the states for their HAVA Section 101, 251 Requirements Payment, Election Security and CARES grants.

The EAC continued to oversee the CARES grant program in FY 2022 as states reconciled expenditures and submitted final reports. The Grants Office provided updates to Congress regarding the closeout of CARES grants, including final state expenditures and the return of unexpended federal funds.

The EAC's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) audits the states' use of the funds, and the EAC grants team worked with the OIG to resolve and close out audit findings. In FY 2021, the EAC's OIG launched audits of eight states use of HAVA funds, including Arizona, California, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Six of the audits were finished, and the final reports issued in FY 2022. The agency is working to resolve and close audit recommendations for Arizona, Delaware, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Washington. Ohio had no findings or recommendations. Georgia's audit was cancelled to avoid duplication of efforts with a state audit that identified deficiencies. In FY 2022, the OIG started HAVA audits for Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Missouri, North Carolina, Northern Mariana Islands, and Wisconsin. The final reports are expected in FY 2023.



#### HAVA CARES Funding

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) included \$400 million in HAVA funds, made available to states to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus for the 2020 federal election cycle. This supplemental appropriation funding, awarded by the EAC within 30 days, provided states with additional resources to protect the 2020 elections from the effects of the novel coronavirus. These funds came at a critical time and had an immediate impact on election preparation. States were able to apply pre-award costs from the start of the pandemic. The EAC made all funding request letters public for the election community and the public to have particulars on how the states and territories were planning to use the funds. It was essential as part of the EAC's clearinghouse function that the states and territories had access to the wealth of ideas and innovative approaches contained in other states' requests as they planned their own use of the funds. Equally essential is that the voting public know how states used these federal funds.

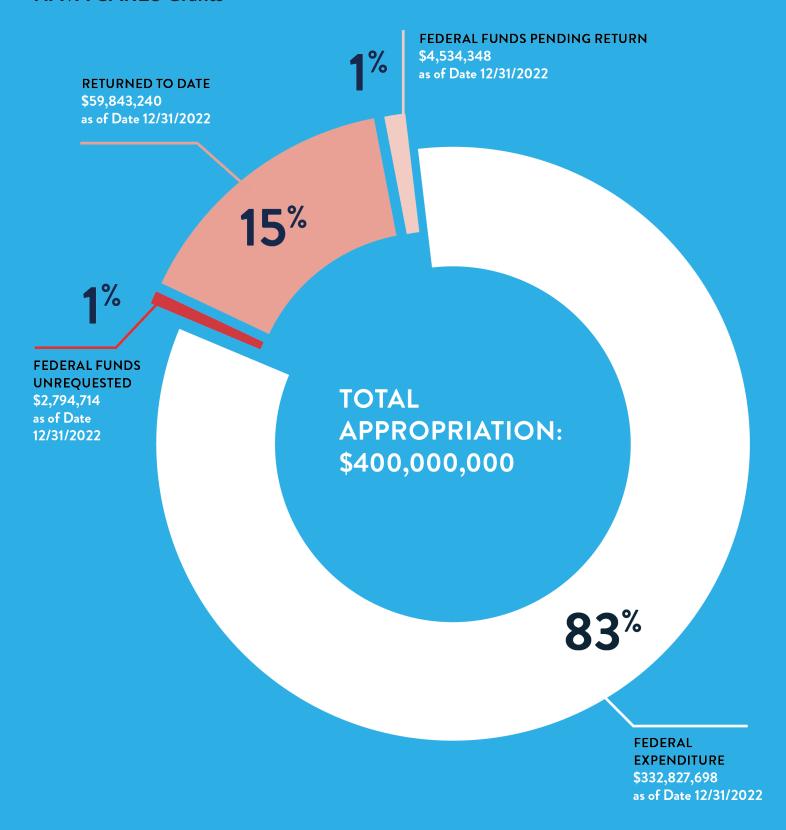
The CARES Act provided the funds to the EAC under Section 101 of HAVA which authorizes the EAC to provide funds to states to "improve the administration of federal elections." Therefore, the EAC followed the requirements of Section 101 to allocate the funds to the states to address issues arising from the pandemic during the remaining primaries and the general election in November 2020. The EAC disbursed \$397,205,288 (99.3%) of the obligated \$400,000,000 based on the requests for those funds by the states. Some states requested less than their full allocation due to concerns over meeting the required 20% match. The funds could only be used for costs associated with the pandemic during the 2020 election season.

States had until December 31, 2020, to expend federal funds and have until March 27, 2022, to meet the 20% match. The EAC submits required quarterly reports to the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee on the status of HAVA CARES funds. Reports can be found on the CARES section of our website at: https://www.eac.gov/payments-and-grants/2020-cares-act-grants. See state-by-state expenditure tables in Appendix.

In FY 2022, multiple training events were held to support the reporting and closeout requirements for CARES. The Grants Office also implemented a debt collection process to return unexpended federal funds and unexpended interest earned to the U.S. Treasury.

In FY 2022, the EAC continued the closeout process with individual grants for which activities had concluded and financials were reconciled, closing 19 CARES grants in FY 2022 for a total of 45 of 56 grants closed. The EAC expects to close the remaining 11 grants in FY 2023. Many states spent all their funding, while some states have returned federal funds including interest earned on those funds. The federal funds returned in FY 2022 totaled \$20,555,358.

#### **HAVA CARES Grants**



# Testing and Certification and the Implementation of Voluntary Voting System Guidelines 2.0 (VVSG 2.0)

### Ongoing Voting System Testing and Certification

As outlined in HAVA, a core function of the EAC includes adopting and modifying the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG), testing and certifying voting systems against these voluntary guidelines, and accrediting Voting System Test Laboratories (VSTLs).

The EAC adopted the first iteration of the VVSG, 1.0, in 2005, adopted VVSG 1.1 in 2015, and finally VVSG 2.0 in February 2021, which the EAC Commissioners unanimously voted to adopt. As of the end of FY 2022, there were 79 EAC-certified voting system configurations from six registered manufacturers. Currently there are 11 registered manufacturers and two accredited VSTLs in the EAC's Testing and Certification Program.

In 2022, the Testing and Certification Program hired new team members to bring the total number of Testing and Certification staff to five.

#### 2022 Table of Certified Voting Systems

Voting System Name/Version	Manufacturer	Date Certified
ClearVote 2.2	Clear Ballot Group	12/23/2021*
ClearVote 2.3	Clear Ballot Group	10/31/2022
Democracy Suite 5.5-D	Dominion Voting Systems	6/8/2022
EVS 6.0.6.0	Election Systems & Software	12/28/2021*
EVS 6.2.0.0	Election Systems & Software	12/23/2021*
EVS 6.3.0.0	Election Systems & Software	11/11/2022
Verity Voting 2.7	Hart InterCivic	6/7/2022

<sup>\*</sup> Certifications completed in 2021 after the annual report was drafted







EAC-certified voting system configurations from six registered manufacturers



#### Table of Voting Systems in Test

Voting System Name/Version	Manufacturer
Democracy Suite 5.17	Dominion Voting Systems
OpenElect 2.2.3	Unisyn Voting Solutions

"Our job at the EAC is to make sure that those machines go through an accredited laboratory, where they're tested to actual standards and then certified by the EAC and made available to the states and localities to vote on," said Commissioner Palmer. "That's why voters can be confident that those machines are secure and accurate."

Early in-person voting under way in Kentucky (spectrumnews1.com)

#### Testing and Certification Quality Monitoring Program

The EAC's Testing and Certification division has a quality monitoring program, the purpose of which is to ensure systems used by jurisdictions are equivalent to those tested and certified by the EAC, to monitor the completeness and adequacy of testing based on performance of fiedling voting systems, and to monitor the effectiveness of the VVSG. This is accomplished through registered manufacturer site audits, fielded system reviews, receipt of anomaly reports from the field, and facilitating distribution of manufacturer technical bulletins or product advisories.

In 2022, the EAC received 124 reports of anomalies with fielded voting systems. Of those, five were related to conformance with VVSG requirements that necessitated remedial system updates. Additionally, one formal investigation was conducted at the request of state election officials. The EAC is planning to hire additional staff to help increase its capacity for processing anomaly reports, conducting investigations, fielded system reviews, and audits of voting system manufacturing facilities.

# Implementation of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines 2.0 (VVSG 2.0)

#### **VVSG Lifecycle Policy**

Implementation of the VVSG 2.0 continued throughout 2022. A significant step in this process was the unanimous approval by the EAC Commissioners of the new VVSG Lifecycle Policy that provides guidance to stakeholders on matters such as obsolete VVSG standard deprecation, how often the standards will be updated, and version control for future guidelines.

The VVSG Lifecycle Policy was presented during a public meeting on April 5, 2022. During this meeting, EAC Commissioners heard a presentation from the Director of Testing and Certification, Jon Panek, that covered the purpose and specific aspects of the policy.

The EAC's VVSG Lifecycle Policy was adopted to create a transparent and predictable path for future updates to the VVSG and to better formalize the process. This will allow the standards to evolve with the needs of election officials and future voting system technologies in a more iterative fashion that keeps pace with innovations in technology and election administration.

The policy is also meant to facilitate a regular review of the VVSG standards, and to provide guidance on when and how new versions will be adopted, and older versions will be discontinued and maintained. It defines changes that may be made to systems certified to deprecated standards and describes the process for updating the standards as defined in the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

In October 2022, the EAC Commissioners approved a revised version of the Lifecycle Policy that provided clarifying definitions for terms used within the policy.

"This is a new and critical tool created because of feedback from election officials regarding their needs for updated voting systems built to the VVSG. This policy was developed through a transparent process, incorporating and addressing extensive feedback from stakeholders and the public. Approval of the VVSG 2.0 was a significant step toward the development of the next generation of voting systems, and the supporting policies and processes to implement those standards are just as important. The Lifecycle Policy adopted today is a key aspect of those supporting policies. We look forward to working with stakeholders on next steps."

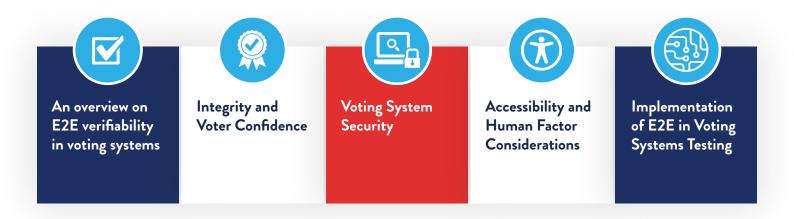
- EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks

#### End-to-End (E2E) Verifiable Voting System Protocol Evaluation Program

The 'Auditable' principle of VVSG 2.0 states that voting systems be auditable and enable evidence-based elections. This principle is supported through the concept of software independence, which means that an undetected error or fault in the voting system's software is not capable of causing an undetectable change in election results. The VVSG 2.0 requirements specify that software independent voting systems must produce voter-verifiable paper records or implement an approved cryptographic E2E verifiable voting protocol.

The VVSG 2.0 calls for any E2E cryptographic protocol used by a cryptographic E2E verifiable voting system to be evaluated and approved through a public process established by the EAC. Approval of E2E protocols is not necessary for voting equipment to be tested against the new standard. This is only necessary to fully realize the software independence requirements.

The EAC continues to work with NIST cryptography experts to establish this process. As part of this process the EAC partnered with NIST in October 2022 to host a two-day virtual conference, titled "The Path to End-to-End (E2E) Protocols for Voting Systems." This workshop discussed the plan and further developed the protocol requirements and evaluation criteria for E2E protocols. The conference covered:



Conference presenters included election officials, cybersecurity experts, accessibility experts, accredited VSTLs, registered manufacturers, and EAC staff. Approximately 150 attendees joined the first day of the conference and nearly 100 for the second day. A recording of the event is available online.

#### Accreditation of VSTLs to Test Against VVSG 2.0

In 2022, the EAC and the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) National Voluntary Lab Accreditation Program (NVLAP) performed accreditation assessments of both VSTLs for the biennial review of their accreditation as well as to have their accreditation scope updated to add VVSG 2.0. The assessments for SLI Compliance were completed in September and the assessments for Pro V&V were completed in December.

During a public hearing on November 15, 2022, the EAC Commissioners unanimously voted to accredit the first VSTL, SLI Compliance, to test voting systems against VVSG 2.0. On December 21, 2022, the EAC Commissioners unanimously voted to accredit Pro V&V as the second VSTL able to test voting systems. This followed SLI Compliance's and Pro V&V's successful completion of independent assessments by both the EAC and NIST NVLAP.

Accreditation of the VSTLs to test systems against VVSG 2.0 represents the final milestone in the implementation process and enables the EAC to accept applications to test and certify equipment to the new standard. Modifications to systems certified to VVSG 1.0 will continue to be accepted through November 15, 2023. At that point, VVSG 1.0 and 1.1 will be deprecated and only maintenance modifications will be accepted for systems certified to the deprecated standards. It is important to note that all currently certified systems will retain their certification status unless specific action is taken by the Commissioners to decertify a system under the provisions outlined in HAVA and the Testing and Certification Program manual. With full implementation of VVSG 2.0, the latest version of the program manuals approved by the Commissioners with VVSG 2.0 adoption in 2021 are now in effect. As part of the enhancements introduced in the updated manuals, all voting systems submitted to the EAC going forward will undergo penetration testing.

"The accreditation of SLI Compliance for VVSG 2.0 testing formally creates a certification path for the next generation of more secure, auditable, and accessible voting systems for elections in the United States. This is a major step and the EAC is dedicated to ensuring the agency's work with VSTLs, manufacturers, and the voting systems submitted to our program is transparent. Feedback from stakeholders will help continue to improve the VVSG and the EAC's testing and certification process."

- Joint statement from EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks, Vice Chair Christy McCormick, Commissioner Ben Hovland, and Commissioner Donald Palmer

"With Pro V&V's accreditation to test to VVSG 2.0, both of the EAC's accredited laboratories are ready to test systems to the latest standards, and we can focus our attention on supporting testing and certification to the new standard. This is critical as manufacturers prepare voting systems for the 2024 presidential election. We continue to welcome feedback from stakeholders that will help improve the VVSG and the EAC's testing and certification process."

- Joint statement from EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks, Vice Chair Christy McCormick, Commissioner Ben Hovland, and Commissioner Donald Palmer

# Enhancing Election Security



Commissioner Donald Palmer visited Ball State University with staff from the Indiana Secretary of State's office to discuss their Voting System Technical Oversight Program (VSTOP).

The Cyber Access and Security Program (CAS) is an integral part of the EAC's mission. CAS maintains an Election Security Preparedness page on the EAC website with cybersecurity, risk management, training, best practices, and other resources to support this key mission. CAS coordinates closely with other agencies such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to produce relevant and timely products that complement other agency offerings. Examples of this include the publishing of guidance on hash validation, contributions to the EAC's chain of custody best practices guidance, and the continued hosting of CISA's Election Risk Management online tool.

In 2022, the program brought additional attention to the EAC's internal security in response to Executive Order 14028, Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity, by establishing plans to move our information technology assets toward a zero-trust architecture. The EAC fully on-boarded with the CISA CDM program for automated reporting of vulnerability and remediation data.

The EAC's CAS program will continue to seek new and innovative ways to deliver high-quality information and training to election officials. As the federal agency tasked with distributing election administration best practices, the EAC is well positioned to expand its leadership in this area in coordination with our public and private partners.

#### **Tabletop Exercises**

The EAC, National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), and the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), joined CISA to host the nation's largest annual election security exercise on August 17 – 19, 2022. Public and private election security partners from across the country participated in the fifth annual Tabletop the Vote virtually and in-person. The event included a range of hypothetical scenarios affecting election operations, giving participants the opportunity to share practices around cyber and physical incident planning, preparedness, identification, response, and recovery.

# Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program (ESTEP)

The EAC created the Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program (ESTEP) to evaluate the security and accessibility of election supporting technologies such as e-poll books, electronic ballot delivery, election night reporting systems, and voter portals. This program includes the creation of draft standards that can be used by voting system test laboratories or other testing partners, creation of program manuals, administration of the pilot programs, and reporting on the results of the pilot programs. In 2022, the EAC hired its first Director of ESTEP, whose responsibilities will be to oversee testing and standardizing election supporting technologies with the goal of EAC program certification.

#### Voluntary Electronic Poll Book (E-Poll Book) Pilot Program

In 2021, the EAC began developing a pilot program to assist election officials as they continue to expand their use of electronic poll books, or e-poll books. The use of this technology has been steadily growing. According to the 2020 Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS), 1,991 local election jurisdictions reported using e-poll books, with 17 states using e-poll books in all their jurisdictions. Updated data on the continued growth of this technology will be available in 2023 from the EAC's 2022 Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS).

The goal of the pilot program is to help alleviate some of the burden currently shouldered by states in developing and maintaining e-poll book standards as well as the testing of broadly applicable functionality such as security, accessibility, and usability. As there is a wide range of functional and interoperability requirements that are jurisdiction-specific, the EAC is not currently developing these sorts of requirements but would like to add any areas with wide applicability that should be considered baseline functionality.



This technology serves to

- check in voters
- ook up polling locations
- alert staff if a voter has already cast a ballot



reported using e-poll books



using e-poll books in all of their jurisdictions

Throughout 2022, the EAC has continued steps to develop the pilot. This year, an initial set of requirements was developed by the EAC and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). As of December 2022, the requirements were being circulated to stakeholders including voting system test labs (VSTLs) and the EAC's advisory boards for feedback.

The EAC has also been in discussions with the Center for Internet Security (CIS) on how to integrate their RABET-V security testing methodology into the EAC's pilot program. The EAC is applying its traditional system testing methodology during the pilot and will compare its results with public data from the RABET-V pilot to inform its recommendations for future testing efforts.

As the EAC looks toward 2023, the goal is to ensure there is a comprehensive set of testable requirements that will allow the EAC to obtain feedback on the testing procedures and readiness of both manufacturers and labs to participate in this type of testing. As part of the next steps, the EAC will recruit manufacturers to be a part of the process so a representative sample of systems can be tested. The EAC aims to begin testing two to three systems by the end of the first quarter of 2023.

After the pilot, the EAC will go through a more formal standards development process – similar to how VVSG is vetted with public comment periods and full review by all stakeholders. When testing is complete, the EAC will analyze the test data and receive feedback from participants as well as the labs to determine the best path forward in addressing standards for this critical election technology. Part of this process will involve determining whether certification of the tested functionality is appropriate or if some other form of reporting better suits stakeholders' needs.



Commissioner Donald Palmer visited the Escambia County Supervisor of Elections' storage facilities with David Stafford, the Supervisor of Elections.



The EAC Commissioners addressing members of the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS) during the NASS 2022 Summer Conference in Baton Rouge, LA. Philip Smith, 1LPhoto

# Assisting Election Officials and Voters



#### HAVA at 20

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) celebrated its milestone 20th anniversary this year. The landmark legislation created new national standards for states in key areas of election administration, including voting system requirements, voter registration databases, and provisional voting. HAVA also provided federal grant funding to assist states to meet these new standards and improve voter confidence. It also established the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) as an independent, bipartisan federal agency, solely focused on monitoring and improving election administration.

"The 2000 election was a clear inflection point for our electoral system – not only revealing the challenges of our election infrastructure at the time, but also setting the stage for a continuous stream of improvements that have led to expanded voting access and technology nationwide. As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), we acknowledge the immense advancements made at the local, state, and federal levels since the passage of this landmark legislation."

— Joint statement from EAC Commissioners Thomas Hicks (Chairman), Christy McCormick (Vice Chair), Ben Hovland, and Donald Palmer

#### HAVA at a Glance



Created new minimum standards for states to follow in several key areas of election administration.



Provided federal funding to help states meet these new standards and evolve by replacing voting systems, improving voter education and poll worker training, expanding provisional voting, and expanding accessibility offerings at polling places.



Streamlined American elections and safeguarded our most vulnerable populations from accessibility challenges when voting, while ensuring all voters can vote privately and independently.



Established the EAC with the goal of developing guidance to meet HAVA requirements, adopting voluntary voting system guidelines, serving as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration, accrediting testing laboratories, certifying voting systems, and auditing the use of HAVA funds.

#### HAVA has helped to facilitate numerous programs to assist voters on a state and national level, including:

**Testing and Certification Program:** HAVA mandated the EAC to provide certification, decertification, and recertification of voting systems, as well as the accreditation of voting system testing laboratories.

The Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) are a set of specifications and requirements against which voting systems can be tested to determine if the systems meet required standards. Some factors examined under these tests include basic functionality, accessibility, and security capabilities. These national level voting standards were designed to meet the challenges ahead, to replace decades old voting machines, to improve the voter experience, and provide necessary safeguards to protect the integrity of the voting process.

In 2021, the EAC approved the VVSG 2.0, paving the way for the next generation of voting systems across the country. The national security importance in the testing and protection of our voting systems has never been more elevated.

The Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) Comprehensive Report is an analysis of survey data from all 50 states, the five territories and the District of Columbia on the ways Americans vote and how elections are administered. The election data is collected by the EAC and incorporated into a formal report to Congress and the public on the administration of the federal election cycle.

HAVA states that the Commission shall serve as a **national clearinghouse** and resource for the compilation of information and review of procedures with respect to the administration of federal elections. The EAC's Clearinghouse Division is made up of former election officials and subject matter experts that work with EAC staff to provide materials that address the needs of election officials and push out best practices.

There are three **HAVA-mandated federal advisory boards** that help the EAC fulfill its mission: the Standards Board, the Board of Advisors, and the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC). The boards are composed of election officials, experts from the field, and representatives of the government.

In 2021, the EAC also established the **Local Leadership Council** composed of two local election official leaders from each state in order to gain feedback and perspectives from these key stakeholders.

The Help America Vote College Program grants are authorized under HAVA to encourage student participation as poll workers, to foster student interest in the elections process, and to prompt state and local governments to use students as poll workers.



Commissioner Hovland at NCSL WV Conference in Dec. 2022. Credit: NCSL

### Since the passage of HAVA, the EAC has developed and expanded its scope to create various initiatives around important electoral issues, such as:

**Cybersecurity:** The EAC has provided election official training opportunities in cyber protections of the voting process, and the agency continues to work collaboratively with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and other federal partners to manage risks to the nation's election infrastructure, including voting technology and preemptive risk assessment tools.

**Election Official Security:** The EAC continues to publish resources and discussions around election officials' safety and security.

**Poll Worker Recruitment:** In addition to a variety of resources to inspire more Americans to sign up to become poll workers, the EAC created National Poll Worker Recruitment Day in 2020 to encourage people to help America vote by signing up to be a poll worker.

In commemoration of the 20th anniversary of HAVA, the EAC launched Help America Vote Day in 2022 as a second day of action to encourage Americans to sign up as poll workers and distribute resources to assist voters. State and local election offices and other stakeholder groups from 41 states have participated in these efforts.

**Funding:** The EAC has distributed, monitored and provided technical assistance for \$955 million in HAVA election security grants since 2018, including the most recent appropriation of \$75 million for FY 2023. During the 2020 federal elections, the EAC also distributed \$400 million in grant funds provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act to help states prepare for and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since 2003, over \$4.2 billion in HAVA funds has been awarded to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories (American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands).



The EAC Commissioners with the Dean of the Pepperdine School of Public Policy, Pete Peterson.

## Celebrating HAVA at 20: Confidence in Elections

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) partnered with Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy to host "HAVA at 20: Building Trust in Elections," a special event that brought together election officials, federal partners, and subject matter experts from across the country to discuss important issues ahead of the 2022 midterm election and reflect on the impact of HAVA on elections in America. Taking place on September 1, 2022, at Pepperdine's campus in Southern California, the event featured four panels to discuss topics such as election misand disinformation, security and technology, current issues facing our nation's elections, and the future of HAVA. The event was attended by almost 100 in-person guests and was live-streamed on the EAC's YouTube page.

President George W. Bush, who signed HAVA into law in 2002, also provided a written message recognizing the anniversary, which was read by the Dean of the School of Public Policy, Pete Peterson. To kick off the event, Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) provided prerecorded remarks marking the anniversary of HAVA and noted the successful work of the EAC.

The first panel, "Confidence in Elections," which was led by EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks, Auburn University Professor Mitchell Brown, Claremont McKenna College's Andrew Sinclair, and Charles Stewart III, the Founding Director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Election Data and Science Lab, discussed the alarming rise in mis-, mal-, and disinformation, as well as unfounded allegations of election irregularities. Panelists discussed how these instances have led to an increased level of public distrust in election administration.

In Chairman Hicks's opening remarks, he laid out the importance of confronting this issue, noting that "one of our many responsibilities as election officials is educating about the voting process and the safeguards in place to ensure the results are accurate. Now, more than ever, these processes of faith and the dedicated public assistants who run elections have come into question."

One way to reduce misinformation, the panelists said, is to make sure voters understand how elections are run at the local level. Professor Sinclair noted – from his own personal experience – that becoming a poll worker is a great way to learn about the electoral process. He joined his fellow panelists in strongly encouraging students and the public to participate in the election process, and said that having that experience often helps to build trust in elections.

The second panel, "Security and Technology in Elections," was moderated by EAC Vice Chair Christy McCormick, who led a discussion with Mona Harrington from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), Traci Mapps, Vice President of voting system test laboratory SLI Compliance, and Rice University Professor Dan Wallach.

"Coordination is one of our most powerful tools in the effort to secure elections. We have ongoing coordination between the intelligence community, federal, state and local partners, coordinating councils representing government and the private sector," said Vice Chair McCormick in her opening remarks.



Chairman Thomas Hicks during his opening remarks at the HAVA at 20 event at Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy.



Commissioner Christy McCormick during her opening remarks for a panel on security and technology in elections for the EAC's HAVA at 20 event hosted at Pepperdine University.



Commissioner Ben Hovland moderating a panel on current issues in election administration at the EAC's HAVA at 20 event hosted at Pepperdine University.



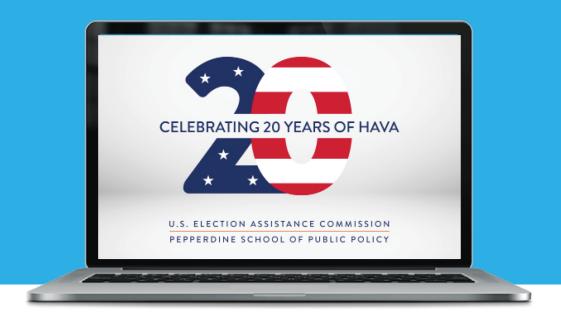
Commissioner Donald Palmer moderating a panel on the future of election administration at the EAC's HAVA at 20 event hosted at Pepperdine University.

Each panelist analyzed the increased coordination between government and private sector partners to keep elections secure and the steps election officials are taking to handle the physical and cyber threats made against the election officials and election infrastructure.

During the third panel, "Current Issues in Election Administration," Commissioner Ben Hovland was joined by Joel Watson Jr., Louisiana's Deputy Secretary of State for Outreach Services, Susan Lapsley, California Deputy Secretary of State, HAVA Director and Counsel, and Matthew Weil, Executive Director of the Democracy Program, Bipartisan Policy Center to discuss the various resources and funding gaps election officials are confronted with.

Since 2018, Congress has appropriated \$880 million in grant funding for state and local election offices to improve election security. Each state has used this funding to address different needs, like replacing voting equipment or providing training for election workers.

Congress provided \$400 million of critical funding during the 2020 primary election season as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Ms. Lapsley commented that the CARES Act had a huge impact on California's elections at the local level. "The majority of that funding went to the counties for staffing, for PPE, for polling location requirements, and that funding was really a game changer for us as a state." While the panelists agreed that HAVA funding has been helpful, they stressed that getting steady, dependable funding is vital for long-term election planning as well as for security.



The final panel, "Future of Elections," was led by Commissioner Donald Palmer. Joining him were Doug Lewis, formerly of the Election Center, Dean Logan, the Clerk/Recorder & Registrar of Voters of Los Angeles County, CA, Deak Kersey, General Counsel, Deputy Secretary of State of the West Virginia Secretary of State's Office, and Mindy Romero, the Founder and Director of the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID) at the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. This panel examined the significant impact that HAVA has had over the last 20 years, how elections will continue to evolve, and what can be done to inspire confidence in our future elections.

"Since 2002, our voting systems have never been more secure, more accessible, more usable to the public and to our election officials," said Commissioner Palmer. "From a fundamental level, our voting equipment has never been more accurate. That was the whole purpose of HAVA."

When reflecting on the last 20 years, the panelists noted that HAVA and the EAC have had an instrumental impact on today's elections and will continue to do so in the future, such as on election security. "The EAC plays a major role in the sense of doing processes that are so complicated that the general public doesn't understand them," said Mr. Lewis. "But it's absolutely necessary to protect elections."

Recordings of all four panels are available on the EAC's YouTube channel. Blog posts on the event can be found on the EAC website as part of the Celebrating HAVA At 20 series: Confidence in Elections, Security and Technology in Elections, and Current Issues in Election Administration.

#### **New EAC Resources**



Vice Chair Christy McCormick speaking at the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks (MAMC) Summer Conference in Traverse City, Michigan.

In 2021, the EAC created a new Clearinghouse Division to enhance fulfillment of its mission as a national clearinghouse of information on election administration.

In 2022, the Clearinghouse team consisted of six Subject Matter Experts who are former election officials and experts on election law and accessibility. This division works with EAC staff to create new, timely, and in-depth resources for election officials on various pressing issues ranging from audits to redistricting. The Subject Matter Experts also act as a resource to the other divisions within the EAC, providing guidance and feedback across organizational lines and functions.

Over the past year, the EAC released about 40 resources addressing a wide range of issues facing election officials and election workers across the nation, including safety threats,

protecting the integrity of election results, and ensuring voters with disabilities and those with language barriers can participate fully in the election process.

To promote new resources, receive direct feedback on existing resources and solicit ideas for new resources, the Subject Matter Experts staffed booths at several conferences, speaking directly to hundreds of election officials across the country. Conferences with SME attendance in 2022 include the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC), the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the Election Center, and the Indiana Election Administrators Conference. For example, Senior Election Subject Matter Expert Steve Daitch presented with Commissioner McCormick at the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks Conference, and Senior Election Subject Matter Expert Kammi Foote presented with Commissioner McCormick at the League of California Cities Elections Seminar, in 2022.



#### Threats to Election Officials

The escalation of threats to election workers is of great concern to election officials and the EAC. In late 2021, the EAC launched a dedicated webpage for security-related concerns: Security Resources for Election Officials. This serves as a reference for election workers who may be facing personal threats or harassment in the workplace, including a Personal Security for Election Officials Checklist, Guidance for Removing PII from internet searches, and an Incident Response Checklist. The EAC regularly updated this comprehensive resource to include information and best practices specific to the physical security of election and poll workers, information on submitting reports to law enforcement, helpful toolkits, and the most recent updates and resources from our federal partners.

#### Post-Election Processes and Results Reporting

Voters look to election officials for trusted information about election results and are often unfamiliar with the mechanics of election administration. How election officials display and communicate post-election activities can play a key role in facilitating public confidence in election outcomes. As public confidence in elections waned due to mis- and dis-information, the EAC developed guidance for the American public and election officials to combat this growing threat. In FY 2022, the EAC launched a dedicated webpage for election officials and voters with post-election resources including:



Many of these tools are provided in formats that allow election offices to customize them with URLs, logos and information specific to their states and jurisdictions. Through the development of these tools, the agency hopes to assist election officials in educating the public on the thorough and transparent process that leads to official election results.

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#### **Election Security**

The security of voting systems is essential to a trustworthy election. Election officials must develop and follow procedures to ensure the security of voting systems, and the databases, systems, and devices that support the ongoing operations of an elections office. This includes supportive technology, such as voter registration databases, e-poll books, and results reporting tools used to display unofficial results on elections websites. The EAC published several new resources, guides, and best practices to help election officials secure election systems and to help the public better understand the types of security measures used to secure election technology including:



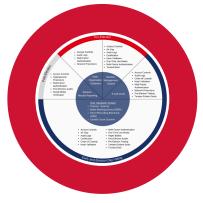
Voting System
Security Measures



Guide to Geo-Enabled Elections



Best Practices for Election Technology



An Election Technology Security Icon
Library, an interactive mapping tool
that displays election security measures
organized by equipment type that are both
available on the EAC's website

#### Accessibility

Through the addition of an accessibility expert, the agency is working to ensure that all EAC best practices and resources address the unique challenges of voters with disabilities. This year the EAC released Best Practices for Accessible In-Person Voting, Best Practices for Accessibility for Voting By Mail, and Native American and Disability Access as companions to the EAC Best Practices: Accessible Voter Registration. These resources for election officials addressed the unique hurdles that voters with disabilities often face throughout the voting process and highlighted actionable steps that officials can take to remove these barriers.

Furthering the EAC's dedication to promoting access for all voters, the EAC worked with a team of experienced researchers from Rutgers University to study how to better communicate with voters with disabilities, regardless of access to the internet. The study "Disability, the Voting Process, and the Digital Divide", was released to the public in July 2022. The results of the study illuminate the longstanding and critical consequences of the digital divide between people with and without disabilities. Election officials can use the information in the study to help bridge the gap and ensure citizens with disabilities are able to obtain the information they need to fully participate in elections. Additional information on this report can be found in the Promoting Accessibility section of this Annual Report.

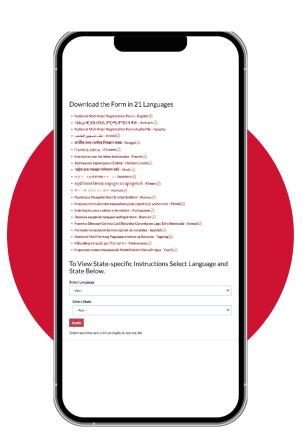




#### Language Access

In December 2021, the U.S. Census Bureau announced 68 new jurisdictions that were required to provide language assistance under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA). To help election officials prepare, develop and improve language access programs, the EAC revised its webpage dedicated to language access resources and published several new Clearinghouse resources including Best Practices for Unwritten Languages, Guide to Language Access and Accessibility, and Language Access Program **Checklist**. In addition, the agency provided translations of the National Mail Voter Registration Form, the Glossary of Election Terminology of nearly 1,300 terms and phrases used in elections, and Voting 101 Guides in 21 languages. The EAC also compiled, designed, and published the first of its kind interactive map of every jurisdiction required to provide language assistance, that jurisdictions can use for networking when improving their language access programs. Additional information on these resources can be found in the Promoting Accessibility section of this Annual Report.









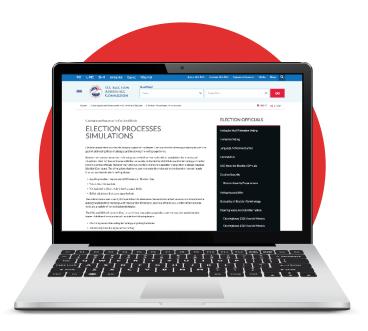
#### Other EAC Resources

The Clearinghouse Division revised and published the Quick Start Guides series, which includes 26 guides that summarize and highlight election administration information in the United States. The original iterations of these guides were published beginning in 2007, and this update was a priority to ensure the resource was applicable to current election administration. The goal of the Quick Start Guides series is to provide a collection of helpful tips and practices to assist state and local election officials in effectively managing and administering elections. The best practices are designed to be practical and applicable to jurisdictions regardless of their size and resources.

In FY 2023, the EAC plans to release updated Election Management Guides that, along with the updated Quick Start Guides, will provide a comprehensive resource for election officials on election administration practices.

In addition, the Clearinghouse Division published Voting Access for Native Americans Case Studies and Best Practices which provides detailed background information, case studies, and best practices for providing voting information and services to these diverse communities. These resources are designed to be practical and applicable to jurisdictions regardless of their size and resources.

This is just a small sampling of the resources the EAC has developed this year. We continue to develop new content that provides support to state and local election officials in their efforts to ensure accessible, accurate, and secure elections.





#### **Election Processes Simulations Videos**

Election officials are often faced with difficult decisions ranging from how to consolidate polling locations, strategies for minimizing long lines, or even how to handle an unexpected shutdown of services. To better help election officials face these challenges, the EAC partnered with the University of Rhode Island to conduct a series of simulations that allow officials to explore the relationship between elements of Election Day administration and common issues that officials face at voting locations. In September 2022, the EAC released a video series that allows election officials to learn from the results of thousands of simulations of the voting experience. These videos also provide visual interpretations of voting locations, equipment, and the people involved, all with a goal of increasing efficiencies and minimizing wait times for voters.

Information about the Processes Simulations series is available on the EAC's website and the first series of videos on polling place consolidation is available here.

More simulations will be added in FY 2023 with the goal of addressing other critically important topics including:

- Allocating accessible voting technology at polling locations
- Addressing lines during in-person voting
- Deploying new voting systems and allocating resources
- Managing polling location stoppages that may occur on Election Day

#### Press Releases, Requests, and Press Mentions

Electoral interest continued to ramp up throughout 2022 in anticipation of the November midterm elections, and the EAC worked to uphold a constant stream of communication with the public to relay important electoral information. As the national Clearinghouse on election administration, the EAC works to fulfill its role as a trusted source of information and utilized a variety of news sources – including digital, print, and broadcast – to provide voters with the most up-to-date information and resources on electoral processes.

#### Media Coverage & Engagement

Throughout the year, the EAC continued to engage with local and national media in an effort to educate the public about the latest electoral happenings, as well as responding to incoming media inquiries and ensuring that reporters have access to timely and accurate information about U.S. election administration. The agency's skilled staff and leadership team consistently offer their expertise on a broad range of electoral topics in media interviews, often highlighting resources such as the Testing and Certification program, Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) data, and other research that can assist voters on Election Day.

In FY 2022, the EAC's communications team distributed 28 press releases and advisories and generated over 8,050 press mentions in print and broadcast.

#### **Outreach to Election Officials**

In FY 2022, the EAC continued to distribute its monthly newsletter — which was launched in September 2020 — to inform the public of the most recent updates to both election administrations nationwide as well as the internal movements of the organization. The EAC also uses this newsletter — which is distributed to a list of 4,400 state and local election officials, board members, stakeholders, press and members of the public — to alert readers of urgent updates or notifications such as cybersecurity guidance, availability of new reports, and training opportunities. The communications team is continuously working to increase readership and usability of this newsletter to ensure that it continues to be an effective communication tool in 2023 and beyond.



#### Congressional Testimony and Inquires

Committee on House Administration Republicans' Roundtable on Ballot Paper Shortage - On March 18, 2022, EAC Vice Chair Christy McCormick participated in this roundtable discussion that also included representatives from the National Association of Election Directors (NASED), the National Association of Counties (NACo), ES&S, Runbeck Election Services, election officials, and other stakeholders regarding the impact paper supply shortages will have on elections and mitigation strategies.

#### Other Congressional activity included:

More than 20 briefings and in-person meetings with Congressional members and their staff. Official Congressional correspondence including more than 10 detailed responses to informational inquiries and more than 18 communications related to grants services and HAVA Funds.

Additionally, in April 2022, the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) responded to the EAC's request for an opinion on the lawful use of funds made available to states under HAVA and subsequently appropriated by Congress. The determination regarding the allowability of states to use HAVA Section 101 funds for physical security services and social media threat monitoring was made in response to the significant increase in threats made against federal, state and local election officials.

The EAC previously issued guidance on the usage of HAVA grant funds to improve election cybersecurity defenses and the physical security of election equipment and facilities. Following the opinion from the GAO, the EAC determined that the same guidance applies to physical security services and social media threat monitoring. Federal grant expenditures must be allowable, allocable, reasonable, and necessary. This guidance was subsequently shared with election officials and posted on the EAC's website.



#### Other Reporting

The EAC also submitted the following reports as required by federal law and for transparency including:

Senior Agency Officials for Records Management (SAORM) Report (October 1, 2021)

Pandemic Response Accountability Committee - CARES Grant Updates

Quarterly Report (October 10, 2021, January 10, 2022, April 10, 2022, July 10, 2022)

2022 DATA Act Reporting to USASpending - Monthly Updates

SAOP FISMA Metrics (October 31, 2022)

EEO Form 462 Report (October 31, 2021)

Annual FISMA Reporting (October 31, 2021)

2021 Agency Financial Report (November 15, 2021)

Premium Class Travel Reporting (November 30, 2021)

Travel Reporting Information Profile (November 30, 2021)

2020 Federal Advisory Committee Act Annual Report (December 4, 2021)

Telework Report (December 15, 2021)

ED 22-02 Mobillron Reporting (December 23, 2021)

ED 22-02 Log4J Reporting (December 23, 2021)

FISMA Annual CIO Metrics (October 31, 2021)

Quarterly FISMA CIO Data Call (January 15, 2022, April 15, 2022, July 15, 2022, and October 15, 2022)

Quarterly Risk Management Assessment (RMA) (January 15, 2022, April 15, 2022, July 15, 2022, and October 16, 2022)

Annual Agency Ethics Program Questionnaire (February 3, 2022)

2021 Annual Report to Congress (January 31, 2022)

No Fear Act Summary Statistical Data (January 31, April 30, July 31, and October 31, 2022)

Confidential Financial Disclosure Reporting (Internal Submission Only) February 15, 2022

FY 2022 Freedom of Information Act Report (March 2, 2022)

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FY21 No Fear Act Annual Report (March 31, 2022)

Records Management Self-Assessment (RMSA) Report (March 11, 2022)

Federal Electronic Records & Email Management Report (March 11, 2022)

Senior Federal Travel Reporting (October 30, 2022; April 30, 2022; October 30, 2022)

Management Directive 715 (April 30, 2022)

Public Financial Disclosure Reporting (May 16, 2022)

ED 22-03 VMWare Vulnerabilities (May 20, 2022)

1353 Travel Reporting (November 30, 2021, May 31, 2022, and November 30, 2022)

CISA C-CAR Confluence Reporting (June 9, 2022)

Grants Annual Expenditure Report as of 9/30/21 (June 30, 2022)

FISMA Annual IG Report (July 29, 2022)

FY 2023 Congressional Budget Justification (March 30, 2022)

CISA C-CAR Exchange Basic Authentication Reporting (August 23, 2022)

BOD 18-02 Data Call (Annual High Value Assets List Update) (August 4, 2022)

BOD 20-01 Vulnerability Disclosure Policy (October 14, 2022)

BOD 22-01 Known Exploited Vulnerabilities (every two weeks, automatically reported through CISA CDM dashboard)

EEO Form 462 Report (October 31, 2022)

Section 608 (FY 2022 Spending Plan) May 13, 2022

Section 634 (FY spending progress report) – (January 27, 2022: Section 635 for Q1, May 2, 2022, August 11, 2022, November 5, 2022)

2022 Agency Financial Report (November 15, 2022)

Premium Class Travel Reporting (November 30, 2022)

Travel Reporting Information Profile (November 30, 2022)

CISA/OMB Killnet DDoS Mitigation Domain Name Report (December 21, 2022)

CISA CDN DDoS Mitigation RFI (December 21, 2022)

ODNI OPSEC Progress Report (December 31, 2022)

#### **Executive Orders**

#### **Executive Order 14019 on Promoting Access to Voting**



In November 2022, the EAC implemented and granted administrative leave for voting and serving as nonpartisan poll workers and observers. Four EAC staff served as citizen volunteers during pre-logic and accuracy testing, early voting, on Election Day, and during a portion of the canvass in several jurisdictions across the country.

On March 7, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14019 on Promoting Access to Voting. The EAC worked closely with the General Services Administration (GSA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to provide technical support on Sections 5 and 7 of the order, respectively. The EAC also supported

NIST's efforts to analyze barriers to private and independent voting for people with disabilities. Through 2022, the EAC has produced several best practice guides, checklists, toolkits and reports to protect and promote voting, including serving Native American voters, voters with disabilities, and voters with language access needs.

# Executive Order to Advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in the Federal Workforce (E.O. 14035) - EAC implemented and submitted self-assessment and Strategic Plan

On June 25, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14035 to Advance Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in the Federal Workforce. As required by E.O. 14035, the EAC developed and submitted its Agency DEIA Strategic Plan to the Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy, the Director of OPM, and the Deputy Director for Management of OMB. Through 2022, the EAC worked internally and with outside consultants to implement the EAC DEIA Strategic Plan. These efforts included updating EAC Human Resources Standard Operating Procedures, hiring an experienced Human Resources Manager, training managers and staff on merit system principles, equal employment opportunity laws, and prohibited personnel practices, and embedding accessibility as a core design component of physical and digital spaces.

#### Election Infrastructure Subsector Government Coordinating Council

In 2016, the EAC played a key role in establishing the Government Coordinating Council (GCC) for the elections subsector and has remained an active member since its creation. The GCC enables local, state, and federal government partners to share information and collaborate on best practices to mitigate and counter threats to election infrastructure. As outlined in the GCC's October 2017 charter, the EAC Chair serves on the GCC's executive committee, the Vice Chair serves as a voting member, and the remaining two commissioners serve as ex officio, non-voting members. In addition, six voting members of the GCC are drawn from three of the EAC's advisory boards.

Led by the EAC Chair on the GCC executive committee, the EAC actively participated in and supported the work of the GCC to share information and strengthen election infrastructure throughout 2022.

#### GCC Membership from the EAC and EAC Advisory Boards in 2022

Thomas Hicks	EAC Chairman	Member, Executive Committee Representative
Christy McCormick	EAC Vice Chair	Member
Judd Choate	Director, Division of Elections, Colorado (EAC Technical Guidelines Development Committee - State)	Member
Paul Lux	Supervisor of Elections; Okaloosa County, Florida; (EAC Technical Guidelines Development Committee - Local)	Member
Sarah Ball Johnson	City Clerk, Colorado Springs, Colorado; (EAC Board of Advisors - Local)	Member
Linda Lamone	Administrator of Elections, Maryland State Board of Elections; (EAC Board of Advisors - State)	Member
Mark Goins	Coordinator of Elections, Tennessee; (EAC Standards Board - State)	Member
Debbie Erickson	Administrative Services Director, Crow Wing County, Minnesota; (EAC Standards Board - Local)	Member
Benjamin Hovland	EAC Commissioner	Member (ex officio)
Donald Palmer	EAC Commissioner	Member (ex officio)

#### Supporting Voter Registration and Education

#### National Mail Voter Registration Form and Election Terminology Glossary

The EAC maintains and updates the National Mail Voter Registration Form, also known as the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) form, or the federal form. Updates to the form are required when state laws and/or state-specific instructions need to be updated. In FY 2022, the EAC managed updates to the NVRA form for 10 states: South Dakota, Maryland, Hawaii, Oregon, California, District of Columbia, Oklahoma, Montana, Idaho, and Washington.

In addition to monitoring and making state-specific changes, the EAC translated the National Mail Voter Registration Form into six new languages in FY 2022, bringing the total number of languages offered to 21. The new languages include Amharic, Polish, and Tagalog, and for the first time, the form has been translated into three Native American languages: Apache, Navajo, and Yup'ik.

The **form webpage** with these translations was accessed about 300,000 times on the EAC's website throughout FY 2022.

Alongside the National Mail Voter Registration Form, the EAC also translated the Glossary of Election Terminology into 20 languages –in addition to English – in FY 2022. The Glossary serves as a resource not only for election officials in adhering to new or increased language requirements, but also for voters hoping to learn and better understand election-specific phrases and terms.





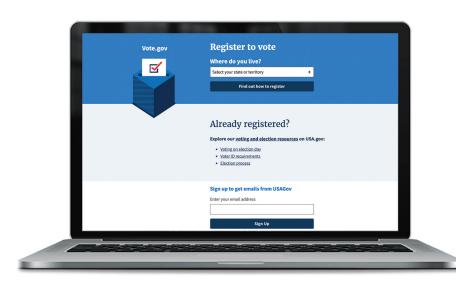
#### **EAC.gov** and Social Media Statistics

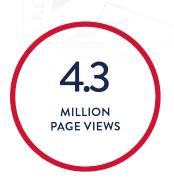
Over the last year, the EAC.gov website received about 2.8 million visitors with 3.1 million sessions and 4.3 million page views. After the EAC homepage, the most popular landing page was Register and Vote in Your State, with more than 1.1 million page views. This webpage includes state-specific information for voters on registration deadlines, registering to vote, options to cast a ballot, and contact information for state and local election officials. The third most visited page was Become a Poll Worker, which contains a variety of educational resources for poll workers.

Additionally, the EAC had over 960,800 impressions across all social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube. The EAC grew its social media following to over 12,800 Twitter followers, 5,312 Facebook likes, 947 Instagram followers, and 1,626 LinkedIn follows. Additionally, the EAC posted 51 videos and livestreamed virtual events on the agency's YouTube channel in 2022, resulting in roughly three times the amount of views compared to FY2021, during which the agency received 21,628 views.

#### **Vote.gov Statistics**

The EAC and General Services Administration (GSA) continued its partnership to increase the functionality of the **vote.gov** website, update the site, and increase engagement from voters and external organizations. Leading up to the 2022 general election, the EAC provided voter registration deadline information that was included on **Vote.gov**'s state specific pages. GSA reported that Vote.gov had 2.1 million visits over the 2022 midterms and drove 96% more clicks to state and territory websites in 2022 than in the 2018 midterm elections. The EAC in coordination with GSA staff is dedicated to this project and discussions are ongoing with preparations being made for the upcoming 2024 presidential election.





f

4,792 LIKES



833 FOLLOWERS



1,260 FOLLOWS



12,000 FOLLOWERS



~7,200 VIEWS



The eac.gov page with the highest views for FY and calendar year 2022 was Register And Vote In Your State with a total of 1.1 million (unique pageviews: 838,000).

## National Poll Worker Recruitment Day (NPWRD)





The EAC established National Poll Worker Recruitment Day in 2020 to raise awareness about the valued role of poll workers in the elections process and inspire greater civic engagement by encouraging people to sign up to "Help America Vote." In 2022, the event evolved and grew, aiming to address the shortage of poll workers amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, inspiring greater civic engagement in our elections, and ensuring safe and accurate elections in 2022 and beyond.

The second annual National Poll Worker Recruitment Day was held on **January 25, 2022**, with the intention of giving state and local election officials around the country more lead time before the midterm elections, underscoring the year-round challenge they face recruiting and training poll workers.

State and local election officials used National Poll Worker Recruitment Day to kick off recruitment efforts and supplement ongoing recruiting for poll workers in their communities. The EAC released an updated **toolkit** complete with resources, graphics, and sample social media posts to help local election offices promote National Poll Worker Recruitment Day and bolster their own recruitment efforts.

To mark the occasion, Chairman Donald Palmer, Vice Chair Thomas Hicks, Commissioner Christy McCormick, and Commissioner Ben Hovland issued a joint statement in recognition of National Poll Worker Recruitment Day 2022:

"As the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) marks the 2nd Annual National Poll Worker Recruitment Day today, the EAC Commissioners would like to honor and thank the hundreds of thousands of Americans who will dedicate their time and effort to ensure those in their community are able to participate in elections by becoming a poll worker... While today officially marks National Poll Worker Recruitment Day, it's very much a starting point. Throughout this year, the EAC will continue to help election officials as they prepare for midterms and assist in any way we can to encourage more Americans to sign up as poll workers and help America vote."



#### Help America Vote Day (HAVD)

The EAC made huge efforts over 2022 to champion civic engagement from Americans throughout the electoral process. Amid the agency's ongoing HAVA at 20 celebrations, the EAC designated August 16, 2022, as the first-ever Help America Vote Day, a second day of action created following the success of January's National Poll Worker Recruitment Day with the goal of securing an adequate number of poll workers who were trained and available to assist voters on Election Day. In advance of the midterm election, the EAC heard from election officials that more assistance was needed to bolster poll worker recruitment at the state and local levels.

As part of the agency's efforts to encourage more Americans to engage in the electoral process, the EAC also created and deployed new resources to assist poll workers ahead of the 2022 election. The Poll Worker Preparedness Checklist was designed to help poll workers feel ready for Election Day and make them feel more confident as they prepare to serve their community. The EAC also updated the social media and press toolkit to include updated Help America Vote Day branded graphics and messaging.

National Poll Worker Recruitment Day and Help America Vote Day continued to drive visitors to HelpAmericaVote.gov. This webpage has information on the roles and responsibilities of poll workers as well as a lookup tool with information for thousands of local election jurisdictions, including applications and requirements for election workers. Over the course of the year, the EAC's two poll worker focused webpages, including HelpAmericaVote.gov had over 263,000 page views. The EAC continually updated the lookup tool based on information received from election officials. Information for just under 300 local jurisdictions have been updated based on those communications. The EAC also responded to phone calls and emails from Americans interested in signing up as poll workers in their communities. In FY 2022, EAC staff responded to over 200 questions about how to sign up or about being a poll worker from members of the public.

In recognition of Help America Vote Day, EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks, Vice Chair Christy McCormick, Commissioner Ben Hovland, and Commissioner Donald Palmer issued the following joint statement:

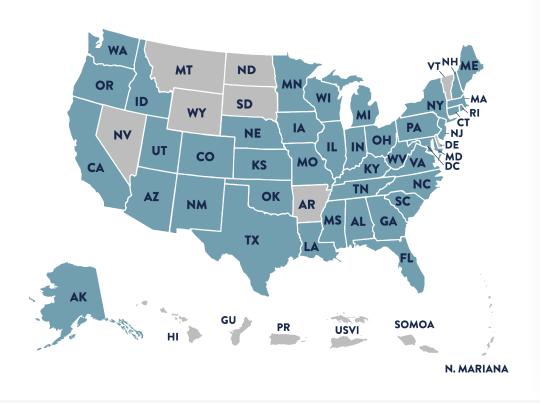
"Since the signing of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) 20 years ago there have been numerous fundamental improvements in election administration across the county. HAVA also established the EAC, charging the agency to be a leader in the effort to modernize our voting systems and improve election administration, and serve as a primary source of best practices and election information. Help America Vote Day will not only celebrate the anniversary of this historic legislation but will also shine a light on the invaluable role election officials and poll workers play in our election process. We are hopeful that Help America Vote Day will also raise awareness of the critical poll worker shortage facing our nation and encourage Americans to sign up to help voters cast their ballots during early voting and on Election Day. The EAC looks forward to continuing to support state and local election offices as they serve voters and ensure safe, secure, accessible, and accurate elections."



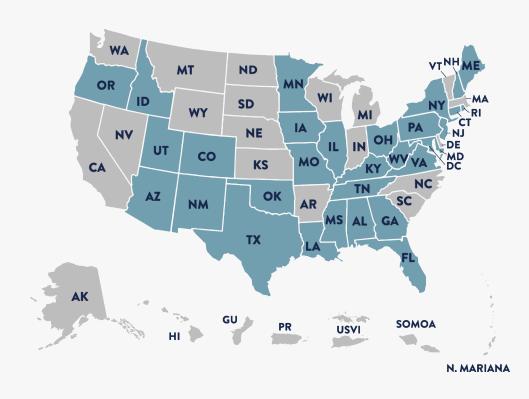


#### **Overall Stats**

There were **42 states**represented by state and local governments that participated in HAVD and NPWRD in 2022 (including the District of Columbia)



31 state election offices participated in HAVD and NPWRD (including the District of Columbia)



#### Website Statistics for EAC Poll Worker Materials



Voter Resources - Become a Poll Worker: highest page views of **8,883** on June 2, 2022.

#### 284 updates

were submitted by election officials and made to the EAC's lookup tool.

#### National Poll Worker Recruitment Day

@EACGov tweets related to NPWRD had the following stats during the month of January (tweets started on 1/10/22 and ran until 1/31/22)

Received

140,712

total impressions

2,767

engagements

**522** 

total retweets

Gained

181

followers during that time

#### **Headlines**

#### **FOX 10**

Maricopa County looking to hire thousands of poll workers ahead of midterm elections

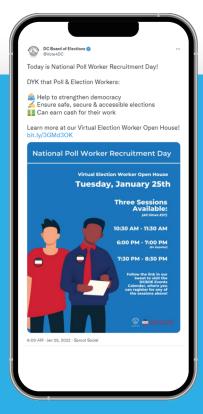
It's only a good thing that people have grown to become even more curious about the election process, the elections department says, following the presidential election. "That is a great thing for us to be able to have poll workers interested, so they can work with us and learn about the process, so they can have that hands-on training, and they can understand how we run elections."

#### PICAYUNE ITEM

Secretary Watson Celebrates National Poll Worker Recruitment Day

"I can't overemphasize the importance of well-trained and ample poll workers. They are the unsung heroes of free and fair elections here in Mississippi," said Secretary Watson. "As in-person voting remains our primary voting method, we need trustworthy individuals to step up and help uphold the integrity of Election Day."

#### **Notable Examples**









# Help America Vote Day

EAC's tweets related to Help America Vote Day had the following stats during the month of August (tweets started on 8/8/22 and ran until 8/23/22)

Received
47,683
total impressions

**1,049** engagements

257 total retweets

Gained

199

followers during that time

#### **Headlines**



State's poll worker recruitment effort drew 1,100 last week

"Pennsylvania elections officials said Wednesday that a push last week to recruit new poll workers produced more than 1,100 applicants, including at least one in 58 of 67 counties. The effort tied to Help America Vote Day, organized by the **U.S. Election Assistance Commission**, brought in the most applicants in some of the populous suburbs of Philadelphia — 221 in Montgomery County, 132 in Chester and 91 in Delaware."

#### **People**

Billie Eilish, Mariah Carey and Alicia Keys Among Stars Recruiting Poll Workers to Ensure Accessible Elections

"On Aug. 16 — also known as Poll Worker Recruitment Day — celebrities, public figures and organizations called on their supporters to take part in the movement and register as a poll worker. Participants included former President Barack Obama; singers Billie Eilish, Mariah Carey and Alicia Keys; comedian Trevor Noah; actress Kerry Washington; author Glennon Doyle; and organizations like the Milwaukee Bucks, Salesforce and the American Federation of Teachers."

#### Notable Examples









# Leveraging Election Research and Data



#### Collecting Data for the 2022 EAVS

The Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) is conducted every two years following the federal general election and is comprised of more than 400 questions reaching approximately 6,500 election jurisdictions. The 2022 EAVS and the accompanying Policy Survey capture data from jurisdictions across 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and the five territories. The EAVS tells the story of the federal election cycle from the election data and voting statistics of each state, territory, and locality. Data collection for the 2022 Policy Survey ended on January 13, 2023, and the EAVS survey was distributed to state points of contact on November 14, 2022. The first round of responses to the EAVS survey are due by February 1, 2023, and the final certified EAVS data is due on March 1, 2023.

The EAVS and Policy Survey collects data on a wide variety of election administration topics including voter registration, military and overseas voting, domestic civilian by-mail voting, polling operations, provisional ballots, voter participation, and election technology. The Policy Survey provides a contextual understanding of state laws and the policies and procedures that govern federal elections. It is also used as a checkpoint for the verification of EAVS data submissions from state and local jurisdictions. For example, if a state reports not allowing same-day voter registration on the Policy Survey, but a locality in that state reports same-day voter registration data through EAVS, EAC staff will be able to clarify any apparent inconsistency.

For the 2022 EAVS, the EAC continued its partnership with the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) to collect data on military and overseas voters. This partnership is an ongoing effort to coordinate survey efforts between the EAC and the Department of Defense to reduce the reporting burden on state and local election officials and consolidate reporting to Congress.





Julie Chapman from the Clark County Elections Department shows Vice Chair Christy McCormick and EAC Subject Matter Expert Steven Daitch the Election Day operations at the Galleria at Sunset Mall Vote Center, in Henderson, NV.



Crowd in the check-in line at the e-poll book booth, at the Sun City Anthem Community Center in Henderson, NV.

The EAC understands the time and resource commitment it takes to complete the EAVS and continually looks for ways to address the needs of election officials as they fill out the survey. As part of that effort, the EAC reached out to 2022 EAVS points of contact at the state and local levels to conduct pre-survey outreach calls, usability testing of the EAVS and Policy Survey templates, and to review terms in the EAVS Glossary. To assist election officials, the EAC posted three webinars, featuring state and local points of contact and the EAVS project team, providing advice on preparing and completing the EAVS. The EAC also posted six "Closer Look" videos that dive deeper into each section of the EAVS and completed eight webinars that states requested to answer more detailed questions.

The EAC is adding an additional layer of review before state data submissions are finalized for the 2022 EAVS. This additional layer consists of the EAC's subject matter experts reviewing Policy Survey and EAVS submissions. States also have the opportunity to review the data analysis as well as add data notes to the comprehensive report. Furthermore, the Excel template will calculate EAVS data percentages to assist in state data reviews. Lastly, a customer satisfaction survey will be administered immediately after states certify their data submissions.

EAVS data was of particular interest to members of the press, researchers, and other stakeholders as the 2022 election approached. In addition to assisting election officials with the Policy Survey, the EAC also responded to requests for analysis verification and requests on how to use the EAVS data in a variety of platforms.



Chairman Thomas Hicks, shaking hands with early voting moderator Jon Lentz, visited with state and local election officials throughout Rhode Island during early voting leading up to the November election.

Credit: Arianna Conte, Social Media Manager, Rhode Island Department of State.



Commissioner Donald Palmer with Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill.

The data from the EAVS survey is used by local, state and national legislators to inform critical policy decisions. The EAC also provides the Election Administration and Voting Survey interactive allows users to examine and compare data at both the state and local levels, as well as look at any combination of jurisdictions side by side. The data visualization was built by the EAC using Microsoft's Power BI and is publicly accessible to any user to better utilize EAVS data Researchers have also used the data to identify election and voting trends, and in some cases, legal professionals used the information to educate judges and the courts on the state of elections across the country.

For the 2022 EAVS, new questions were added in the EAVS and the Policy Survey, including: total number of polling places, new poll workers, reasons for casting provisional ballots, drop boxes and ballot curing, voter registration, UOCAVA ballot transmission/return modes, and accessible absentee voting. Questions that were removed include questions about punch card and lever voting machines and duplicative questions on in-person voters. There were also edits for increased clarity of definitions and instructions throughout.

The full 2022 EAVS report including analysis and datasets will be available by June 30, 2023.

#### Original Research

The EAC has commissioned Auburn University to complete three HAVA studies: HAVA Sec 241(b)(11): Federal and State Laws Governing the Eligibility of Persons to Vote; HAVA Sec 241(b)(13): Laws and Procedures used by Each State Concerning Recounts, What Constitutes a Vote, and Contesting Ballots; and HAVA Sec 241(b)(8): Methods of Recruiting, Training, and Improving the Performance of Poll Workers. These three studies will be completed in 2023.

# Promoting Accessibility

# Language Access

Under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), 330 jurisdictions across the nation are required to provide some form of language assistance during elections for specific language minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English well enough to participate in the voting process. The most recent determination was announced on December 8, 2021. Section 203 as well as sections 4(e) and 4(f) require determinations from the U.S. Census Bureau to be published in the federal register every five years and those determinations affect federal requirements for providing voting materials and other language assistance during elections.

To assist states and localities in implementation of language translation and service requirements, the EAC created a program focused on providing resources to administrators and facilitate effective assistance to voters. The EAC created a searchable map using American Community Survey (ACS) data and the Power BI software to show which jurisdictions are currently covered under Section 203. The tool can be used to look up language requirements by jurisdiction including city, county, or state.

Along with state and other federal government resources, the EAC developed several best practice resources following the announcement of covered jurisdictions.

**Best Practices for Unwritten Languages:** According to the American Community Survey (ACS) data, there are nearly 30,000 people of voting age living across 78 jurisdictions in three states (Alaska, Arizona, and New Mexico) who speak unwritten languages. This new resource was created to assist election officials with providing language assistance to voters who require oral assistance in their minority language.

Guide to Language Access and Accessibility: Some election officials are required by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) to produce materials in languages other than English. Election officials also must communicate understandable information to voters with disabilities that impact their hearing, seeing, speaking, reading, writing, or comprehension. This guide was developed to help election officials serving voters at the intersection of language access and disability.

**EAC Language Access Program Checklist:** This Checklist was created to ensure proper implementation of Section 203, including information on implementation timelines, budget considerations, community outreach and engagement, requirements for written materials, poll worker recruitment and training, general best practices for election officials, and other language access resources from the EAC.

Then-Chairman Donald Palmer walked through the new EAC resource – the Language Access Program Checklist which contains practical information for election officials to consider as new language determinations are released. Chairman Palmer highlighted several significant pieces in the checklist, including budget considerations and outreach and engagement.

The EAC also hosted a virtual Language Access Roundtable on February 17, 2022 highlighting a range of issues state and local election officials should consider when adopting new language requirements or recently losing section language requirements. Election officials and specialized election office staff shared their resources and best practices related to serving language minority groups in their communities. Local election officials from Arizona, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Missouri, and Nevada were represented on the four panels.

The discussion centered around the importance of accurate, legal, and culturally competent translation for limited-English proficiency (LEP) voters and best practices for implementing new language translation programs, including serving voters with disabilities, and highlighted innovative and practical ways jurisdictions have addressed language assistance and recruitment challenges, among other agenda items.

"There are millions of American voters who have limited proficiency in English or speak another language at home. It is imperative that election officials have the resources they need to serve these populations whether their jurisdiction is newly covered by Section 203 or continues to be covered," the EAC Commissioners said in a joint statement. "These new materials from the EAC will assist in this process and we will continue to listen to election officials to better understand their needs in serving these communities."

#### Expansion of Translated EAC Materials

As part of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission's (EAC) celebration of National Native American Heritage Month in November 2021, the EAC released three new translations of the National Mail Voter Registration Form into the Yup'ik, Navajo, and Apache languages. The EAC is responsible for maintaining the National Mail Voter Registration Form and this announcement marked the first dedicated expansion of that effort to serve Native American communities. In November 2021, the EAC also released translations of the National Mail Voter Registration form in Amharic, Polish, and Tagalog.

Alongside the National Mail Voter Registration Form, in FY 2022 the EAC also translated the Glossary of Election Terminology into 20 languages. The glossary includes nearly 1,300 terms and phrases and serves as a resource not only for election officials who have new or increased language requirements but also for voters hoping to better learn and understand election-specific phrases.

In January 2022, the EAC also released **VOTING 101: Election Information for New Voters** which addresses commonly asked questions on different aspects of voting. This printable resource for election officials is intended to cover the basic questions new voters have and to share resources to find out more information. The EAC translated trifold and handout versions of this resource into 20 languages.

- National voter form available in three Indigenous languages The Fulcrum
- Federal commission adds three Native American languages to voter registration resources - Minnesota Reformer

# Best Practices—Promoting Accessibility

Election officials are responsible for ensuring accessibility in elections for voters with disabilities. To assist officials in providing accessible options for voters with disabilities, the EAC offers a range of resources. In 2022, the EAC released Best Practices: Accessible In-Person Voting and Best Practices: Accessible Voting by Mail, which contained checklists and best practices to improve accessibility for voters. These resources build on the best practices guide released in 2021 for accessible voter registration.

With in-person voting the most widely available voting option, it is important that election officials and other decision makers evaluate every component of the process to ensure voters with disabilities can access them. The EAC recommends including voters with disabilities throughout the process, even organizing a testing group that represents a diverse set of needs to ensure effective policy. The first step is to choose a polling place with priority given to physically accessible locations reachable by public transportation and the majority of the voters served by that location. In addition to building accessibility, the voting area itself must have an accessible entrance and adequate circulation and maneuvering space for voters who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. Poll workers and other staff should be aware of any available voting aids and voting assistance and should be trained on how to operate the accessible voting machines.

An increasing number of states and voters have begun to utilize alternative means of voting, particularly outside of the polling place. Despite the differences in terminology and methodology used to describe voting outside of a polling place, the process must be accessible. According to the EAC's Disability and Voting Accessibility in the 2020 Election survey conducted by Rutgers University, voters with disabilities were more likely to vote by mail. Best Practics: Voting by Mail highlights the primary barriers to voting by mail and provides best practices to help ensure voters with disabilities have equal access to this crucial voting option.

The EAC continues to update these best practices as it strives to ensure that voters with disabilities can participate fully in our electoral process.



To gather key information on voter access ahead of the 2022 midterm elections, the EAC conducted a national survey in March and April of 2022 to identify both the advancements and gaps in accessibility for voters with disabilities. The agency commissioned the study alongside veteran researchers from Rutgers University, working closely with Professors Dr. Lisa Schur and Dr. Douglas Kruse, Co-Directors of the Program for Disability Research at the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers University, and Dr. Mason Ameri, Associate Professor of Professional Practice at the Rutgers Business School. The initiative served as a follow-up to a study on disability and voting accessibility conducted by Rutgers and the EAC in 2021.

The full report, titled "Disability, the Voting Process, and the Digital Divide" was released on July 26, 2022. The study was conducted with a focus on computer and internet use, sources of information on the voting process used in 2020, accessibility of information sources, preferred ways of receiving information about the voting process, trust in information sources, expectations about voting and information sources in 2022, and knowledge of rights for accessible information. Access to this data is critical for election officials who are continuously working to communicate and meet the needs of their jurisdictions. Understanding how to better communicate with voters with disabilities – regardless of access to the internet – is a crucial step in making elections more accessible.

The survey sampled 2,426 respondents, stratified to include 1,186 citizens with disabilities and 1,240 citizens without disabilities. The oversampling of citizens with disabilities was done to secure a large enough sample for small margins of error and reliable breakdowns within the disability sample.





One of the key findings from the "Disability, the Voting Process, and the Digital Divide" report is that almost three-fourths (71%) of people with disabilities receive information on the voting process and where to vote from non-internet-based sources, compared to three-fifths (61%) of people without disabilities. This is because people with disabilities are less likely than those without disabilities to use computers or related devices and less likely to have access to a printer. Close to six out of seven (86%) of people with disabilities use some form of computing device, compared to nineteen of twenty (95%) of people without disabilities. One-third (33%) of people with disabilities do not have a printer at home or easy access to one, compared to only 18% of people without disabilities.

The results of the study illuminate the longstanding and critical consequences of the digital divide between people with and without disabilities. To bridge the gap, election officials should prioritize providing voting information in multiple formats, to help ensure citizens with disabilities are able to obtain the information they need to fully participate in elections. Long-term efforts should also be made to reduce the digital divide by expanding internet access for people with disabilities – particularly those who have low incomes or live in rural areas. Throughout 2022, the EAC called on these findings to produce best-practice focused products and services, as well as public forums for both voters with disabilities and the election officials who serve them. Full study results are available on the EAC's website.

The EAC Commissioners also conducted panels to learn more about the major findings of this study and how election officials can apply this data as they serve voters across the country. The Commissioners were joined by Professors Dr. Lisa Schur and Dr. Douglas Kruse, Co-Directors of the Program for Disability Research at the School of Management and Labor Relations at Rutgers University, and Dr. Mason Ameri, Associate Professor of Professional Practice at the Rutgers Business School. The panels can be accessed from the EAC's YouTube channel.

#### PEOPLE WHO USE SOME FORM OF COMPUTING DEVICE

86% OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

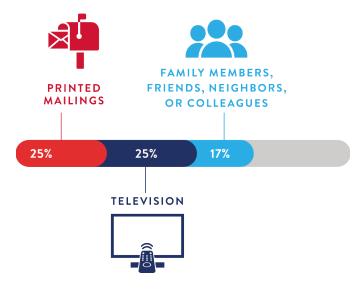
95% OF PEOPLE WITHOUT DISABILITIES

#### DO NOT HAVE A PRINTER AT HOME OR EASY ACCESS TO ONE

33% OF
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITIES

18% OF PEOPLE
WITHOUT
DISABILITIES

#### MOST POPULAR SOURCES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES







# Highlighting Best Practices

# The Sixth Annual EAC National Clearinghouse Awards, 2021 Clearine Winners

Under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA), the EAC is charged with serving as a clearinghouse for election administration information. One way the EAC meets this responsibility is the annual Clearinghouse Awards, or "Clearies." This program recognizes election officials' and their offices' contributions to best practices in election administration in a range of categories. In the six years of the program's operation, the EAC has received over 325 entries, proving a measure of successful engagement of the program.

The EAC received over 70 submissions across all the categories for the 2021 competition. Submissions were scored by a panel of judges from the EAC's Standards Board and Board of Advisors. The EAC issued awards to 20 programs with honorees ranging from large states with more

than 10 million voters to townships of less than 100,000 residents. To provide even more best practices to election administrators, the EAC also recognized 14 offices and their efforts for Clearie Honorable Mention awards.

The 2021 Clearies built on the successes of past years by encouraging innovations in election administration and publicizing achievements across the election community. It added two new categories- "Outstanding Use of HAVA Grants in Election Modernization" and "Outstanding Election Official Association Program."

The "Outstanding Use of HAVA Grants in Election Modernization" category coincided with the 20th anniversary of HAVA and recognized programs that were developed or utilized the HAVA grant fund.



Kyla Esparza, Program Coordinator of Election Workers at the Wyandotte County (Kansas) Election Office and Commissioner Ben Hovland.

#### 2021 Clearie Winners

#### Outstanding Innovations in Elections -Large Jurisdictions

Indiana Secretary of State - Development of Professional Certificate in Election Administration, Technology and Security Program

North Carolina State Board of Elections -HUBS Work Groups

Pierce County Elections (WA) - Drop Box Chain of Custody

Wake County Board of Elections (NC) - Data Driven Solutions for Managing Voter Population Growth

#### Outstanding Innovations in Elections -Small/Medium Jurisdictions

Clay County Supervisor of Elections (FL) - Clay County 2022 Elections Expo

City and County of Denver Elections Division (CO) -Confined Voting Program Expansion

San Mateo County Department of the Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder and Chief Elections Officer (CA) -Embracing Equity and Inclusion in Elections

#### Improving Accessibility For Voters With Disabilities

Michigan Secretary of State - MICRC Accessibility Support

Nebraska Secretary of State - Poll place accessibility for voters with disabilities

### Best Practices in Recruiting, Retaining, and Training Poll Workers

Leon County Supervisor of Elections (FL) - Conflict Resolution Traffic Light

San Mateo County Department of the Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder and Chief Elections Officer (CA) - Increasing Youth Engagement through Student Poll Worker Program

Wyandotte County Election Office (KS) -Civic Engagement Series - Youth at the Booth

#### Creative and Original "I Voted" Sticker Design

"I Voted" Durham County Board of Elections (NC) - 'I Voted' Sticker Contest

"I Voted" Maryland State Board of Elections -Student I Voted Sticker Art Contest

Santa Fe County Clerk (NM) - "I Voted!" Sticker Design Contest

## Outstanding Innovation in Election Cybersecurity and Technology

Hamilton County Board of Elections (OH) - "Did You Know?" Video Series

Los Angeles County Registrar- Recorder/County Clerk (CA) -Use of IoT in Tracking Ballot Boxes

Michigan Secretary of State - MICRC Public Comment Portal

#### Outstanding Use of HAVA Grants in Election Modernization

Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (CA) - Election Worker Disability Awareness Training Video

#### Outstanding Election Official Association Program

Indiana Secretary of State - Indiana County Clerks Association and Indiana Election Division



"I Voted" Maryland State Board of Elections
- Student I Voted Sticker Art Contest



"I Voted" Durham County Board of Elections (NC) - 'I Voted' Sticker Contest



Winner, "I Voted" Sticker, Santa Fe County Clerk, New Mexico

# Video Series and Virtual Events



The EAC returned to in-person events in 2022, but the benefits and flexibility offered by virtual events and video series continued to be a valuable resource as the EAC shared information and best practices with stakeholders. Throughout FY 2022, the EAC developed video series and featured videos to highlight best practices in election offices across the country.

As part of its continuing effort to provide resources and best practices to election officials across the nation, the EAC hosted in-depth video discussions marking Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) month, Women's History Month, and Native American Heritage Month as well as cybersecurity. The videos were then posted on the EAC website for election officials and other key stakeholders to access.

#### **Election Official Security Panel Discussion**

In this video from July 14, 2022, EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks lead a panel discussion on election official security with Sheriff Peter Koutoujian from the Middlesex Sheriff's Office in Massachusetts, Chris Harvey Deputy Director with the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council, and Neal Kelley, retired Registrar of Voters for Orange County, California. They offered a synopsis of threats they and others in elections have faced, how they dealt with these circumstances, and what election officials can do to mitigate threats.

This panel discussion built off of the video series started in December 2021, where the EAC Commissioners interviewed election officials, experts, and other partners on election official security. In this series Commissioners spoke with Licensed Professional Counselor, Harold Love, on the importance of mental health and wellbeing for election officials; Scott Konopasek, General Registrar and Director of Elections for Fairfax County, Virginia, on the security of election officials, staff members, and poll workers; and the EAC's former Senior Program Advisor to the Executive Director, Tina Barton, on the threats she faced as the City Clerk for the City of Rochester Hills, Michigan.

#### **AAPI** Heritage Month

EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks **spoke** with Dr. Natasha Varner who serves as the communications and public engagement director at Densho, a nonprofit organization that documents the testimonies of Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated during WWII. Their discussion centered around Japanese American voting rights with Dr. Varner noting that it was the first time the U.S. government had to make large-scale arrangements for an incarcerated civilian population to cast absentee ballots. She concluded by emphasizing how this served as a reminder of how voting is a privilege and that we must make sure our voices are heard in elections.

#### Women's History Month

To honor Women's History Month, EAC Commissioners interviewed several women leaders in elections from across the nation about their experiences in the field.



Chairman Hicks **talked** with Alice Miller, Senior Policy Advisor, D.C. Board of Elections. Ms. Miller spoke about how she began her career in public service then discussed the most significant changes in elections over the years. She noted that when she first started in elections twenty years ago, elections were "sleeping little events" that occurred but have now transformed in a major way with everyone paying attention.



Commissioner Christy McCormick spoke with Ellen Craig-Bragg, City Clerk for Romulus Michigan. Ms. Craig-Bragg discussed her public service career and noted that technology was one of the big changes she had witnessed since the passage of HAVA twenty years ago. When she first started, a lot of technology was being introduced, now there are many layers of technology they are using, including high-speed scanners and adjudication software. Ms. Craig-Bragg also noted that safety was a concern as voters have become more aggressive.



Commissioner Ben Hovland **spoke** with Cathy Darling Allen who serves as the County Clerk and Registrar of Voters for Shasta County, California. Ms. Darling Allen commented that the most significant change in elections were the number of people who vote-by-mail. In Shasta County, 1020 people were registered to vote-by-mail in 2000, now that number has skyrocketed to over 75,000.





Commissioner Hovland also **spoke** with Oregon Secretary of State Shemia Fagan who highlighted election efforts in her state, noting that Oregon was the first in the nation to implement vote-by-mail. The state also registers all eligible citizens to vote unless they opt out which Secretary Fagan commented makes it easier for voters to exercise their "most basic political right." She also expressed concern over election workers' safety and noted that a priority for the most recent legislation session was the "Election Worker Safety Act" which would increase the penalties and fines and criminalize threatening and harassing election workers.



Commissioner Christy McCormick and Brittany Westfall, Director of Elections at the West Virginia Secretary of State's office discussed how elections have changed in the twenty years since HAVA passed. Ms. Westfall stated that technology to improve the voter experience was the most significant change she had witnessed. However, that brings concerns about cybersecurity which led to a partnership with the West Virginia National Guard to monitor cyber activity.



Pennsylvania's Acting Secretary Leigh Chapman sat down for a one-on-one conversation with Commissioner Ben Hovland. Along with discussing changes in the election landscape—Secretary Chapman highlighted the increased mail-in voting—they also talked about the challenges facing election officials and the importance of communicating with voters.



Finally, Commissioner Donald Palmer interviewed Virginia Secretary of the Commonwealth Kay Coles James who discussed her roles as a member of the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission and of the Commission on Federal Election Reform. Secretary James noted it is important that everyone who voted knows that their vote is significant and means something.

#### Cybersecurity

To mark Cybersecurity Awareness Month in October 2021, the EAC held a series of discussions to inform election officials of issues that could arise during the 2022 elections.



Then-Vice Chairman Thomas Hicks and Geoff Hale, head of the Election Security Initiative at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) discussed how election officials should be preparing for the next election and other cybersecurity issues. Hale discussed the threat cybersecurity attacks pose to the integrity of our elections, advising election officials to do the basic steps to ensure their systems are segregated.



Commissioner Christy McCormick, then-EAC Executive Director Mona Harrington, and EAC's CIO/CISO Jessica Bowers had an in-depth conversation on the cybersecurity gender gap. Despite some gains, the industry remains male-dominated. Both discussed their journeys and offered solutions to closing the gap, including providing learning and growth experiences for women.



Then-Chairman Donald Palmer recognized Cybersecurity Awareness Month by interviewing Gemma Howell from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Chairman Palmer and Ms. Howell discussed how to apply NIST cybersecurity framework to election infrastructure. Ms. Howell also highlighted the potential threats that could impact the security of U.S. elections such as phishing attacks with malicious links that can be used to gain access to an account.



Finally, Commissioner Ben Hovland interviewed Jon Ford, Managing Director of Global Government and Insider Threat Solutions at Mandiant. Mr. Ford detailed the threat landscape of our election infrastructure and offered tips to assist election officials and safeguard their networks. Commissioner Hovland highlighted the hard work election officials have done to mitigate attacks on their infrastructure.



#### Native American Heritage Month

The EAC also held a series of discussions focused on how to best serve Native American Voters as part of its efforts marking Native American Heritage Month.



Then-Commissioner Christy McCormick **spoke** with Pima County, Arizona Recorder Gabriella Cazares-Kelly about how to improve voter outreach in rural communities, particularly among Native and Indigenous voters. Ms. Cazares-Kelly noted that language barriers are one of the greatest challenges voters these communities face when trying to access voting information from election officials. The EAC has made efforts to help election officials overcome these barriers by expanding translations of the National Mail Voter Registration Form, Glossary of Election Terminology, and other EAC resources.



Robin Garrison and Simon Suzuki with Disability Rights New Mexico talked with then-Vice Chair Thomas Hicks on about the unique accessibility challenges the native American Community faces when it comes to voter registration. Ms. Garrison noted that lack of resources is one of the biggest issues as many areas across the state lack good internet and several polling places are not accessible.



Commissioner Ben Hovland and the EAC's then-Subject Matter Expert Rosangela Ortiz discussed language access. After the announcement of Section 203 designations, the EAC developed resources that can assist election officials across the nation. Ms. Ortiz advised new jurisdictions that fall under Section 203 to reach out to peers who have previously been through the process.



Then-Chairman Donald Palmer spoke with Executive Director Gail Fenumial and Language Assistance Compliance Manager Samantha Mack—both with the Alaska Division of Elections—about their efforts serving the many Native and Indigenous voters in Alaska, including the development of an audio and written glossary. The glossaries are in Alaska native languages and are available both in hardcopy and online. Ms. Fenumial emphasized the importance of both in educating Native and Indigenous voters.

In addition to these series, the EAC also created video series to assist election officials as they use new EAC resources. These videos expanded on EAC resources including:

- Election Processes Simulations,
- Results, Canvass, and Certification, and
- Toolkit for Communicating Election and Post-Election Processes

In recognition of Black History Month, the EAC convened an online panel discussion titled, "Elections, Political Participation, and Black History Month." EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks was joined by Kristen Clarke, the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice; Shana Broussard, Commissioner at the Federal Election Commission (FEC); Debo Adegbile, Commissioner at the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and a partner at the WilmerHale law firm; and Spencer Overton, Professor at George Washington University Law School.

The topics discussed included how election obstacles disproportionally affect communities of urban minorities, how civil and voting rights continue to play a role in minority voting, observations about diversity in the election fields, what impacts measures to keep voters and poll workers safe had on African-Americans, how CARES Act funding and the ability to cast ballots in multiple ways contributed to African-American participation in voting, and the tension between disclosure of campaign donors and the First Amendment within the context of the African-American community.

The panel discussion provided great insight into the ways that various aspects of elections interact with the African-American community.

# EAC Agency Development

With a full suite of Commissioners and new hires within the agency, the EAC continued to modernize operations in 2022 and transition back to in-person work. EAC staff onboarded 10 employees and eight interns in a wide variety of mission-critical roles. With 10 new full-time staff members onboarded, this represents a 20% increase in agency personnel. Staff positions included Senior Election Subject Matter Expert, Compliance Officer, Grants Specialist, Finance Specialist, Contractor Officer Representative (COR), Director of Election Supporting Technology Evaluation Program, Election Technology Specialist, and several Senior Election Technology Specialists.

Currently, the EAC has 55 full-time employees including the EAC Commissioners.

#### Agency-wide:



#### The EAC Internship Program

The EAC continued its intern program for current students interested in elections. Eight interns from across the country attending William & Mary, George Mason University, Miami University, Georgetown University, Berkeley, University of Chicago, University of Tennessee, George Washington University, and Mississippi State University were acclimated to the EAC and provided with assignments that combined their theoretical studies with hands-on mission-critical projects.



The EAC Commissioners performed a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of the new EAC headquarters' hearing room.

#### Office Relocation and Hearing Room Opening

The EAC completed its office relocation from Silver Spring, MD to Washington D.C. in 2021. Throughout FY 2022 EAC staff continued to work virtually due to the buildout of the new space, but significant progress was made to prepare the office for the return of in-person operations, which are anticipated for early 2023. These preparations included the completion of the new hearing room that will allow the agency to host on site meetings and events.

On November 15, 2022, the EAC held its first in-person public meeting in this space. The hearing was held one week after the general election and kicked off with a discussion on the lessons learned from the 2022 midterm elections. The EAC Commissioners also heard from representatives from the National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), the National Association of State Election Directors (NASED), and the Election Center.

Additionally, the meeting included a presentation on accreditation of Voting System Testing Lab (VSTL) SLI Compliance to test voting systems to the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG) 2.0, an overview of agency activities from EAC Interim Executive Director, Mark A. Robbins, and a presentation from the EAC Inspector General Brianna Schletz on EAC management challenges and recent audits.

The Commissioners held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the event and usher in this new phase for the agency.

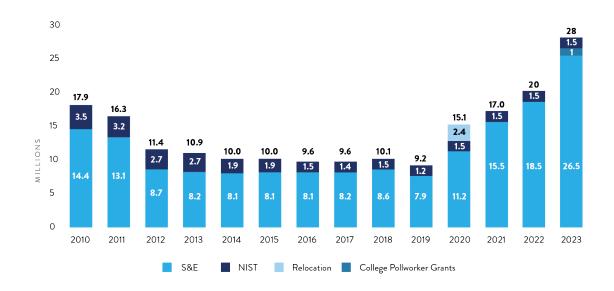


EAC staff who attended the November 15th hearing in the EAC's new office space joined the Commissioners to celebrate the important step for the agency.

#### **EAC Appropriations**

On March 15, 2022, Congress passed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2022 which provided the EAC with \$20 million in agency operating funds for FY 2022, including \$1.5 million made available to NIST. This reflects a \$3 million increase in overall funding from FY 2021 and a 19% increase specifically in program operating funds when excluding NIST funding. The EAC ended up utilizing nearly every dollar of that critical funding with a year-end obligation rate of more than 99%. As a part of that same funding package, the EAC also received \$75 million in formula grant funding which was quickly obligated and distributed to all eligible states to assist in preparation for the upcoming midterm elections.

On December 29, President Biden signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 which provides the EAC with \$28 million in operating funds for FY 2023, including \$1.5 million made available to NIST and a \$1 million allocation to the competitive Help America Vote College Program for poll worker recruitment. Additionally, Congress appropriated \$75 million in HAVA election security grants to improve the administration of elections for Federal office, including to enhance election technology and make election security improvements. This budget increase will enable crucial election-related capital investments such as upgrades to registration databases, voting systems, and physical structures; support recruitment, training, and retention of election workers; improve physical and cyber security; and improve voters' access to reliable elections.



# EAC Advisory & Oversight Boards



The EAC Commissioners presiding over testimony at the November 15 hearing.

As outlined in HAVA, the EAC is advised by three federal advisory committees: the Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC), the Standards Board, and the Board of Advisors. In 2022, the EAC advisory boards primarily monitored the implementation of VVSG 2.0 and discussed with the EAC ways to resolve election administration issues in the community. With technical support from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), the TGDC assists the EAC Executive Director in the development of the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines (VVSG). The Standards Board and the Board of Advisors each review the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines prior to adoption, as well as other voluntary guidance under HAVA Title III. Additionally, EAC studies and other activities to promote effective administration of federal elections must be carried out in consultation with the Standards Board and the Board of Advisors. Finally, the EAC Executive Director and staff must consult with the Standards Board and Board of Advisors in preparing the program goals, long-term plans, mission statements, and related matters for the Commission.

In addition to these boards, the EAC established the Local Leadership Council in 2021 to gather critical input from local election official leaders from across the country. This Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) board is made up of 100 local election officials who are either current or former officers in each state's local election official association.

#### **EAC Board Logos Design Recognition**

In November 2022, the Government Publishing Office (GPO) Creative Services team won an award in the logo category of the 59th American Graphic Design Awards for the creation of the four new Board logos. Only the top 10% of the 14,000+ entries received were chosen as a winner. Graphic Design USA Magazine annually sponsors this competition.



# Technical Guidelines Development Committee

The Technical Guidelines Development Committee (TGDC) assists the EAC in developing the Voluntary Voting System Guidelines. The chairperson of the TGDC is the director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The TGDC is composed of 14 other members appointed jointly by EAC and the director of NIST. NIST has documentation of TGDC resolutions, meeting minutes, and additional information.

EAC Chairman Thomas Hicks currently serves as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the TGDC. The EAC held the TGDC's annual meeting virtually on January 26, 2023. The meeting was live-streamed on the EAC's YouTube page and open to the public.

The TGDC was comprised of the following members at the end of 2022.

#### **Designated Federal Officer**

The Honorable Thomas Hicks

Chairman, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

#### Chair

Dr. Laurie E. Locascio

Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology & Director, National Institute of Standards and Technology

**EAC Standards Board** 

Vacant

Paul Lux

Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (Access Board)

Benjamin Nadolsky – Pending Hannah Ibañez –Pending

Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)

Dan Wallach

**EAC Board of Advisors** 

Shane Schoeller Linda Lamone

American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

Mary Saunders

National Association of State Election Directors (NASED)

Bryan Caskey Judd Choate

**Technical Experts** 

Diane Golden

David Wagner

Geoff Hale

McDermot Coutts



The Local Leadership Council was established by the EAC on June 8, 2021. This new FACA board is made up of 100 local election officials who are current or former officers in each state's local election official association. As leaders and officials who work firsthand to administer elections at the local level, the advisory board provides recommendations and direct feedback to the EAC on a range of election administration topics including, but not limited to, voter registration and voter list maintenance, voting system user practices, ballot administration (programming, printing, and logistics), processing, accounting, canvassing, auditing and testing of ballots, and certification of results.

EAC Vice Chair Christy McCormick serves as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Local Leadership Council. The LLC held a kick-off meeting virtually on December 10, 2021, followed by its annual meeting on January 11, 2022. As a foundational step, the LLC organized a committee to draft inaugural bylaws, to outline how the LLC will be organized, how it will function and define the roles and duties of the membership. On August 24, 2022, the Bylaws Committee, comprised of 10 local election officials, voted to adopt the draft bylaws and directed the Chair to move for adoption by the full membership. The draft bylaws were the result of several rounds of comprehensive discussion, review, and edits among the Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws of the LLC will be voted on by the entire board in early 2023. The full board meetings were all live streamed on the EAC's YouTube page and open to the public.

The Local Leadership Council was comprised of the following members at the end of 2022:

ALABAMA	
Andrea Lecroy	James Tatum
Probate Judge	Probate Judge
Marshall County, AL	Bullock County, AL
ALASKA	
Julie Husmann	Jeremy Johnson
Mat-Su Elections Supervisor	Region III Elections Supervisor
Alaska Division of Elections, AK	Alaska Division of Elections, Ak
ARIZONA	
Lisa M. Marra	Rayleen Richards
Director of Elections	Elections Director
Cochise County, AZ	Navajo County, AZ
ARKANSAS	
Phyllis Rhynes	Melanie Winkler
County Clerk	County Clerk
Greene County, AR	Cross County, AR
CALIFORNIA	
Donna M. Johnston	Ryan Ronco
Registrar of Voters	Registrar of Voters
Sutter County, CA	Placer County, CA



#### COLORADO

#### Carly Koppes

County Clerk and Recorder Weld County, CO

#### Lori Mitchell

County Clerk and Recorder Chaffee County, CO



#### CONNECTICUT

**Tim Decarlo**Registrar of Voters
City of Waterbury, CT

#### Antoinette C. Spinelli

Town Clerk

City of Waterbury, CT



#### **DELAWARE**

**David Gilefski**Deputy County Director
New Castle County, DE

#### **Doris Young**

County Director Kent County, DE



#### **FLORIDA**

Mark Earley
Supervisor of Elections
Leon County, FL

#### **Wesley Wilcox**

Supervisor of Elections Marion County, FL



#### **GEORGIA**

#### Deidre Holden

Director of Elections and Voter Registration Paulding County, GA

#### Charlotte R. Sosebee

Director of Elections & Voter Registration Athens-Clarke County, GA



#### HAWAII

Jade Fountain-Tanigawa

County Clerk Kauai, HI

#### Lyndon Yoshioka

Election Administrator

Kauai, HI



#### IDAHO

Lon Colton
County Clerk
Oneida County, ID

#### Michael Rosedale

County Clerk Bonner County, ID



#### ILLINOIS

**Don Gray** County Clerk

Sangamon County, IL

#### Vacant



#### INDIANA

Jessica Bailey

Clerk

Porter County, IN



Clerk

Huntington County, IN



#### IOWA

Rhonda R. Deters

County Auditor & Commissioner of Elections

Grundy County, IA

Eric Van Lancker

County Auditor & Commissioner of Elections

Clinton County, IA



#### KANSAS

Rick Piepho

County Clerk

Harvey County, Kansas

Jamie Shew

County Clerk

Douglas County, KS



#### **KENTUCKY**

Vacant

Vacant



#### LOUISIANA

Bridget Hanna

Clerk of Court

Ascension Parish, LA

Steve Raborn

Registrar of Voters

East Baton Rouge Parish, LA



#### MAINE

Lisa Goodwin

City Clerk

City of Bangor, ME

Kathleen M. Montejo

City Clerk

City of Lewiston, ME



#### MARYLAND

Alisha Alexander

Elections Administrator

Prince George County, MD

Ruie Lavoie

Election Director

Cecil County, MD



#### **MASSACHUSETTS**

Sergio Cornelio

City Clerk

City of Everett, MA

Danielle M. Sicard

Town Clerk

Town of Easton, MA



#### MICHIGAN

Mary R. Clark

Clerk

Delta Charter Township, MI



County Clerk

Livingston County, MI



#### MINNESOTA

Marilee Peterson

County Auditor-Treasurer Sibley County, MN

#### Michael Stalberger

County Elections Official Blue Earth County, MN



#### MISSISSIPPI

Leroy Lacy

Election Commissioner Madison County, MS

#### Van Lowry

Election Commissioner
Marion County, MS



#### **MISSOURI**

Crystal M. Hall

County Clerk Lincoln County, MO

#### Shane Schoeller

County Clerk

Greene County, MO



#### MONTANA

Rina Fontana Moore

Clerk & Recorder/Elections/Auditor/Surveyor

Cascade County, MT

#### **Bret Rutherford**

Election Administrator

Yellowstone County, MT



#### **NEBRASKA**

Vacant

Vacant



#### NEVADA

Heather Carmen

Assistant Registrar

Washoe County, NV

#### Jessica Koepke

Deputy Clerk

Humboldt County, NV



#### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Sherry Farrell

Town Clerk

Town of Londonderry, NH



Town Clerk

Town of Windham, NH



#### **NEW JERSEY**

Maureen Bugdon

Superintendent of Elections

Atlantic County, NJ

#### Shona Mack-Pollock

Superintendent of Elections

Passaic County, NJ



#### **NEW MEXICO**

Amanda Lopez-Askin

County Clerk

Dona Ana County, NM

#### Naomi Maestas

County Clerk

Los Alamos County, NM



#### **NEW YORK**

Dustin Czarny

Commissioner

Onondaga County, NY

#### Erik Haight

Commissioner

Dutchess County, NY



#### NORTH CAROLINA

Vacant

Vacant



#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

Darlene Carpenter

County Auditor

McHenry County, ND

#### Dawn Rhone

County Auditor

Morton County, ND



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**Sherry Poland** 

Director of Elections

Hamilton County, OH

#### **Brian Sleeth**

Director of Elections

Warren County, OH



#### **OKLAHOMA**

#### Gwen Freeman

Election Board Secretary
Tulsa County, OK



Election Board Secretary Dewey County, OK



#### OREGON

Dan Lonai County Clerk Umatilla County, OR Tim Scott

Director of Elections

Multnomah County, OR



#### **PENNSYLVANIA**

Tim Benyo

Chief Clerk and Director of Elections Lehigh County, PA Thad Hall

Director of Elections Mercer County, PA



#### **RHODE ISLAND**

Nicholas J. Lima

Registrar/Director of Elections City of Cranston, RI Jacqueline S. Schulz

Registrar of Voters Town of Portsmouth, RI



#### SOUTH CAROLINA

Todd Billman

Director

Dorchester County, SC

Marie S. Smalls

Director, Board of Voter Registration & Elections Beaufort County, SC



#### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Cindy Brugman
County Auditor

Codington County, SD

Susan Kiepke

County Auditor
Davison County, SD



#### **TENNESSEE**

Tammy Smith

Administrator of Elections

Wilson County, TN

Vacant



#### **TEXAS**

Remi Garza

Elections Administrator Cameron County, TX Trudy Hancock

Elections Administrator Brazos County, TX



#### UTAH

Ricky Hatch County Clerk/Auditor Weber County, UT

#### Marki Rowley

County Clerk
Millard County, UT



#### **VERMONT**

Vacant

Vacant



#### VIRGINIA

Brenda F. Cabrera

Director of Elections City of Fairfax, VA

#### Barbara Tabb

Electoral Board Member Prince George County, VA



#### WASHINGTON

Garth Fell

County Auditor

Snohomish County, WA

#### Skip Moore

County Auditor Chelan County, WA



#### WEST VIRGINIA

Michelle Holly
County Clerk

 ${\sf Fayette}\ {\sf County}, {\sf WV}$ 

#### Linda Huggins

County Clerk

Preston County, WV



#### WISCONSIN

Wendy Christensen

County Clerk

Racine County, WI

#### Diane Coenen

City Clerk

City of Oconomowoc, WI



#### WYOMING

Vacant

Vacant



### Standards Board

HAVA designates a 110-member Standards Board to assist EAC in carrying out its mandates under the law. The board consists of 55 state and territory election officials selected by their respective chief state election official, and 55 local election officials selected through a process supervised by the chief state election official. HAVA prohibits any two members representing the same state or territory to be members of the same political party. The board selects nine members to serve as an executive board, of which not more than five are state election officials, not more than five are local election officials, and not more than five are members of the same political party.

EAC Commissioner Donald Palmer currently serves as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Standards Board. The EAC held the Standards Board's annual meeting virtually on April 14, 2022. The meeting was live streamed on the EAC's YouTube page and open to the public. State and local members moderated panels with key stakeholders on VVSG 2.0 implementation and paper supply chain issues and discussed the adoption of security standards for voter registration systems. In 2022, the Standards Board focused on the implementation of VVSG 2.0 and providing election official input on draft electronic poll book security and accessibility requirements from the EAC.

The Standards Board Executive Board consisted of the following members and states: Amanda Grandjean, Chair (Ohio); Justin Roebuck, Vice Chair (Ottawa County, Michigan); Derrin Robinson, Secretary (Harney County, Oregon); Mandy Vigil (New Mexico); Bryan Caskey (Kansas); Janine Petty (Maricopa County, Arizona); Jameson Shew (Douglas County, Kansas); Andrew Dowd (Northborough, Massachusetts), and Dwight Shellman (Colorado) The Standards Board roster was comprised of the following members at the end of 2022:

ALABAMA STATE	LOCAL
John H. Merrill	James E. Tatum
Alabama Secretary of State	Probate Judge, Bullock County
Montgomery, AL	Union Springs, AL
ALASKA	
STATE	LOCAL
Vacant	Carol Thompson
	Elections Operations Manager, Alaska Division of Elections, Anchorage, AK
AMERICAN SAMOA	
STATE	LOCAL
Lealofi Uiagalelei	Fiti Tavai
	Deputy Director, Pago Pago, AS
Chief Election Officer, Pago Pago, AS	
ARIZONA	
	LOCAL
ARIZONA	LOCAL Janine Petty
ARIZONA STATE	
ARIZONA STATE	Janine Petty

STATE

John Thurston

Secretary of State, Little Rock, AR

LOCAL

Melanie Clark

Jackson County Clerk, Newport, AR

### Standards Board





Deputy Secretary of State

Sacramento, CA



COLORADO		
STATE	LOCAL	
Dwight K. Shellman III	Rene Loy Maas	
County Regulation & Support Manager	Chief Deputy Clerk	
Colorado Dept of State, Elections Division	Delta County Clerk & Recorder's Office	
Denver, CO	Delta, CO	



# STATE LOCAL

Theodore E. BromleyTimothy De CarloDirector of ElectionsRepublican Registrar of VotersHartford, CTWaterbury, CT



### DELAWARE STATE LOCAL

Anthony AlbenceRalph ArtigliereState Election CommissionerDeputy County Director, Kent County OfficeDover, DEDover, DE



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATE LOCAL

Monica H. EvansMichael D. GillExecutive DirectorBoard MemberWashington, DCWashington, DC



# FLORIDA STATE LOCAL Maria Matthews Paul Lux Director, Division of Elections Supervisor of Elections, Okaloosa County

Director, Division of Elections

Supervisor of Elections, Okaloosa County

Tallahassee, FL

Crestview, FL



#### STATE LOCAL

Bradford Raffensperger	Nancy Boren
Secretary of State	Director of Elections and Voter Registration
Atlanta, GA	Columbus, GA

GEORGIA







HAWAII	
STATE	LOCAL
Kristen Uyeda	Patricia Nakamoto
Ballot Operations Section Head	Election Administrator
Pearl City, HI	Hilo, HI



IDAHO	
STATE	LOCAL
Jason Hancock	Patty Weeks
Deputy Secretary of State	County Clerk
Boise, ID	Lewiston, ID



ILLINOIS	
STATE	LOCAL
Kyle Thomas	Charles Holiday
Director of Voting & Registration Systems (VRS) Springfield, IL	Executive Director, Chicago Board of Election Commissioners
	Chicago, IL



INDIANA	
STATE	LOCAL
J. Bradley King	Nicole Browne
Co-Director of the Indiana Election Division	Monroe County Clerk
Indianapolis, IN	Bloomington, IN



IOWA	
STATE	LOCAL
Heidi L. Burhans	Dennis Parrott
Director of Elections	Jasper County Auditor & Commissioner of Elections
Des Moines, IA	Commissioner
	Newton, IA



KANSAS	
STATE	LOCAL
Bryan Caskey	Jameson Shew
Director of Elections	Douglas County Clerk
Topeka, KS	Lawrence, KS







LOUISIANA	
STATE	LOCAL
R. Kyle Ardoin	Mike Spence
Secretary of State	Caddo Parish Clerk of Court
Baton Rouge, LA	Shreveport, LA



MAINE	
STATE	LOCAL
Julie L. Flynn	Kathleen M. Montejo
Deputy Secretary of State, Corporations,	City Clerk
Elections and Commissions, Augusta, ME	Lewiston, ME



MARYLAND	
STATE	LOCAL
Nikki Baines Charlson	Guy Mickley
Deputy Administrator	Election Director
Maryland State Board of Elections	Howard County Board of Elections
Annapolis, MD	Columbia, MD



MASSACHUSETTS	
STATE	LOCAL
Michelle K. Tassinari	Andrew Dowd
Director/Legal Counsel, Elections Division	Northbourough Town Clerk
Office of Secretary of the Commonwealth	Northborough, MA
Boston, MA	



MICHIGAN	
STATE	LOCAL
Jocelyn Benson	Justin Roebuck
Secretary of State	Ottawa County Clerk/Register of Deeds
Lansing, MI	West Olive, MI

Secretary of State

Carson City, NV

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MINNESOTA	
STATE	LOCAL
David Maeda	Debbie Erickson
Director of Elections	Administrative Services Director
Minnesota Secretary of State Office	Crow Wing County
St. Paul, MN	Brainerd, MN
MISSISSIPPI	
STATE	LOCAL
Michael Watson	Timaka James-Jones
Secretary of State	Circuit Court Clerk of Humphreys County
Jackson, MS	Belzoni, MS
MISSOURI	
STATE	LOCAL
Jay Ashcroft	Batina Dodge
Secretary of State	Scotland County Clerk
Jefferson City, MO	Memphis, MO
MONTANA	l e
STATE	LOCAL
Dana Corson	Rina Fontana Moore
Director of Elections and Voter Services	Cascade County Clerk and Recorder
Helena, MT	Great Falls, MT
NEBRASKA	
STATE	LOCAL
Andrew Buller	Brian Kruse
Assistant Deputy for Elections	Douglas County Election Commissioner
Lincoln, NE	Omaha, NE
NEVADA	
STATE	LOCAL
Barbara K. Cegavske	Joseph P. Gloria

Registrar of Voters, Clark County

North Las Vegas, NV











NEW HAMPSHIRE	
STATE	LOCAL
Patricia Piecuch	Robert Dezmelyk
State Election Director	Moderator, Town of Newton
Concord, NH	Newton, NH

NEW JERSEY	
STATE	LOCAL
Vacant	Linda Von Nessi
	Essex County Clerk of Elections
	Newark, NJ

NEW MEXICO	
STATE	LOCAL
Mandy Vigil	C.J. Garrison
State Election Director	Harding County Clerk
Santa Fe, NM	Mosquero, NM

NEW YORK	
STATE	LOCAL
Douglas A. Kellner	Rachel L. Bledi
Commissioner, Co-Chair	Commissioner
NYS Board of Elections	Albany County Board of Elections
New York, NY	Albany, NY

NORTH CAROLINA	
STATE	LOCAL
Bret Kelly	Michael Dickerson
Chief Information Officer	Mecklenburg County Director of Elections
Raleigh, NC	Charlotte, NC
NORTH DAKOTA	
NORTH DAKOTA	
NORTH DAKOTA STATE	LOCAL
	LOCAL DeAnn Buckhouse
STATE	



#### OHIO STATE LOCAL

#### Amanda Grandjean Brian Sleeth

Director of Elections and Deputy Assistant

Director, Warren County Board of Elections

Secretary of State

Director, Warren County Board of Elections

Lebanon, OH

#### OKLAHOMA

Columbus, OH

## Carol Morris Director of Ballot Generation, Oklahoma State LOCAL Jana Maddux Secretary, Roger Mills County Election Board

Election Board Cheyenne, OK Oklahoma City, OK



#### OREGON

#### STATE LOCAL

Deborah ScrogginDerrin (Dag) RobinsonDirector, Elections DivisionHarney County ClerkSalem, ORBurns, OR



#### PENNSYLVANIA

#### STATE LOCAL

Kori HouseTonia FernandezAssistant Deputy Secretary for ElectionsElection Supervisorand CommissionsErie, PA

Harrisburg, PA



#### **PUERTO RICO**

STATE LOCAL

Norma Figueroa Morales Michael Bonano

Presidenta JAVAA Oficinista III San Juan, PR San Juan, PR



#### RHODE ISLAND

#### STATE LOCAL

Rob Rock Kathy Placencia

Director of Elections Administrator of Elections, City of Providence

Providence, RI

Providence, RI

# STANCE COMME

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SOUTH CAROLINA		
STATE	LOCAL	
Howard Knapp	Vacant	
Interim Director		
Columbia, SC		

LOCAL	
Carri R. Crum	
Clay County Auditor	
Vermillion, SD	
Vermillion, SD	
	Carri R. Crum Clay County Auditor

TENNESSEE	
STATE	LOCAL
Mark Goins	Diane Meadows
Coordinator of Elections	Hamilton County Election Commissioner
Nashville, TN	Chattanooga, TN

TEXAS	
STATE	LOCAL
Keith Ingram	Heather Hawthorne
Director, Elections Division	Chambers County Clerk
Austin, TX	Anahuac, TX
,	,

UTAH	
STATE	LOCAL
Shelly Jackson	Rozan Mitchell
Deputy Director of Elections	Director of Utah County Elections
Salt Lake City, UT	Salt Lake City, UT

VERMONT	
STATE	LOCAL
William Senning	Sandra "Sandy" Pinsonault, MMC
Director of Elections & Campaign Finance	Dorset Town Clerk
Montpelier VT	Dorset VT







VIRGINIA	
STATE	LOCAL
Susan Beals	Brenda Cabrera
Commissioner of Elections	Director of Elections/General Registrar, Fairfax City
Richmond, VA	Fairfax, VA



WASHINGTON	
STATE	LOCAL
Stuart Holmes	Lori Larson
Acting Director of Elections	Stevens County Auditor
Olympia, WA	Colville, WA



WEST VIRGINIA	
STATE	LOCAL
Brittany Westfall	Brian Wood
Director of Elections	Putnam County Clerk
Charleston, WV	Winfield, WV



MISCONSIN	
STATE	LOCAL
Meagan Wolfe	Lori Stottler
Administrator of Elections, City of Providence	Clerk, City of Janesville
Madison, WI	Janesville, WI



WIOMING		
STATE	LOCAL	
Kai Schon	Jackie R. Gonzales	
State Election Director	Albany County Clerk	
Cheyenne, WY	Laramie, WY	



#### **Board of Advisors**



The Board of Advisors is a 35-member committee composed of representatives from the National Governors Association (NGA); National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSA); National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS); The National Association of State Election Directors (NASED); National Association of Counties (NACo); the International Association of Government Officials (iGO); Election Center; International Association of Clerks, Recorders, Election Officials, and Treasurers; U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; and Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

Other members include representatives from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office of Public Integrity, and the Civil Rights Division; the director of the U.S. Department of Defense Federal Voting Assistance Program; four professionals from the field of science and technology, one each appointed by the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Majority and Minority leaders of the U.S. Senate; and eight members representing voter interests, with the chairs and the ranking minority members of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration and the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration each appointing two members. Following the passage of HAVA, the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks and the International Association of Government Officials.

At the end of 2022, Executive Committee officers included, Chair, Gregory T. Moore, President – GTM Consulting Services (House Administration – Chair representative), Vice Chair, Ricky Hatch, Clerk/Auditor - Weber County, UT (National Association of Counties representative), and Secretary, Mark Ritchie, President, MN World's Fair Bid Committee (Senate Rules and Administration – Chair representative).

EAC Commissioner Benjamin Hovland currently serves as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the Board of Advisors. The EAC organized the Board of Advisors' annual meeting virtually on May 16, 2022. The meeting was live-streamed on the EAC's YouTube page and open to the public.

The Board of Advisors was comprised of the following members at the end of 2022.

MEMBER	POSITION	APPOINTING ENTITY	
Ryan Cowley	Director of Elections, Utah	National Governors Association	
J. Anthony Penry	Deputy Securities Administrator and Director, North Carolina Secretary of State	National Governors Association	
Representative Kevin O. Bratcher	Kentucky House of Representatives	National Conference of State Legislatures	
Senator Daniel Ivey-Soto	New Mexico State Legislature	National Conference of State Legislatures	
The Honorable Kyle Ardoin	Louisiana Secretary of State NASS Immediate Past President	National Association of Secretaries of State	
The Honorable Tahesha Way	New Jersey Secretary of State NASS President	National Association of Secretaries of State	
Keith Ingram	Director, Elections Division, Texas Secretary of State	National Association of State Election Directors	

## **Board of Advisors**

MEMBER MEMBER	POSITION POSITION	APPOINTING ENTITY APPOINTING ENTITY	
Linda H. Lamone	Administrator of Elections, Maryland State Board of Elections	National Association of State Election Directors	
Ricky Hatch	Clerk/Auditor, Weber County, UT	National Association of Counties	
Alysoun McLaughlin	Deputy Election Director, Montgomery County, MD	National Association of Counties	
Vacant		United States Conference of Mayors	
Elizabeth (Liz) Howard	Counsel, Brennan Center for Justice	United States Conference of Mayors	
Tim Mattice	Executive Director, The Election Center	The Election Center	
Dean Logan	Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, Los Angeles County, CA	The Election Center	
Eric Fey	Director of Elections, St. Louis County Election Board	International Association of Government Officials	
Christine Walker	County Clerk, Medford, OR	International Association of Government Officials	
Cleta Mitchell	Senior Legal Fellow, Conservative Partnership Institute	United States Commission on Civil Rights	
Wiggins, Child, Quinn,  Senny Carroll  Wiggins, Child, Quinn,  Pantazis, Professor of Law, University of Alabama		United States Commission on Civil Rights	
Benjamin W.J. Nadolsky	Board Member	Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board	
Hannah Ibañez	Board Member	Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board	
Robert J. Heberle	Director - Election Crimes Branch U.S. Department of Justice	Chief, Office of Public Integrity, U.S. Department of Justice	
Chriss Herren	Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice	Chief, Voting Section, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice	



MEMBER	POSITION	APPOINTING ENTITY
David Beirne	Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, U.S. Dept. of Defense	Director, Federal Voting Assistance Program, U.S. Department of Defense
Philip B. Stark	Associate Dean, Mathematical & Physical Sciences and Professor of Statistics, University of California - Berkeley	Speaker of the House
Elliot Berke	Managing Partner, Berke Farah LLP	House Minority Leader
Sarah Ball Johnson	City Clerk, Colorado Springs, CO	Senate Minority Leader
Barbara Simons, PhD	Association for Computing Machinery	Senate Majority Leader
Gregory T. Moore	President, GTM Consulting Services	House Administration - Chair
Lawrence Norden  Deputy Director, Brennan Center for Justice Democracy Program		House Administration - Chair
John G. Fogarty	Senior Counsel	House Administration - Ranking Member
Don Gray	County Clerk	House Administration - Ranking Member
James C. Dickson	Co-Chair, Voting Rights Task Force, National Council on Independent Living	Senate Rules & Administration Committee - Chair
Mark Ritchie	President, Minnesota World's Fair Bid Committee	Senate Rules & Administration Committee - Chair
Rick Stream	Republican Director of Elections, St. Louis County, MO	Senate Rules & Administration Committee - Ranking Member
Shane Schoeller	Clerk, Greene County, MO	Senate Rules & Administration Committee - Ranking Member

## Appendix

## **Election Security**

STATE	AWARD	EXPENDITURES	PERCENT EXPENDED
Alabama	\$14,156,097	\$8,863,899	62.62%
Alaska	\$7,000,000	\$4,860,948	69.44%
American Samoa	\$1,400,000	\$1,069,418	76.39%
Arizona	\$17,215,974	\$13,238,015	76.89%
Arkansas	\$10,503,000	\$5,971,772	56.86%
California	\$79,328,610	\$46,752,972	58.94%
Colorado	\$14,649,281	\$3,730,929	25.47%
Connecticut	\$11,876,298	\$11,876,298	100%
Delaware*	\$7,036,503	\$5,877,314	83.53%
District of Columb	ia \$7,000,000	\$6,240,358	89.15%
Florida*	\$44,241,919	\$24,476,871	55.33%
Georgia*	\$23,735,787	\$21,907,178	92.30%
Guam	\$1,200,000	\$630,653	52.55%
Hawaii	\$7,642,675	945,946	12.38%
Idaho	\$7,854,176	\$4,728,815	60.21%
Illinois	\$30,276,158	\$13,230,367	43.70%
Indiana	\$17,433,752	\$16,612,620	95.29%
Iowa	\$10,786,087	\$4,710,498	43.67%
Kansas	\$10,308,516	\$4,098,666	39.76%
Kentucky	\$13,265,189	\$9,888,136	74.54%
Louisiana	\$13,518,487	\$0	0%
Maine	\$7,643,743	\$3,914,296	51.21%
Maryland	\$16,236,562	\$5,462,429	33.64%
Massachusetts	\$18,146,268	\$8,752,634	48.23%
Michigan	\$24,535,253	\$10,706,697	43.64%
Minnesota	\$14,014,282	\$4,877,830	34.81%
Mississippi*	\$10,521,137	\$7,482,852	71.12%
Missouri*	\$16,584,673	\$3,961,391	23.89%
Montana	\$7,133,535	\$3,814,479	53.47%

## **Election Security**

STATE	AWARD	EXPENDITURES	PERCENT EXPENDED	
Nebraska	\$8,422,268	\$3,200,216		38%
Nevada	\$10,083,287	\$3,912,486		38.80%
New Hampshire	\$7,582,633	\$2,249,042		29.66%
New Jersey	\$22,403,245	\$7,605,155		33.95%
New Mexico	\$8,853,131	\$4,841,685		54.69%
New York	\$44,651,756	\$25,195,086		56.43%
North Carolina*	\$22,050,678	\$4,846,378		21.98%
North Dakota	\$7,000,000	\$1,206,328		17.23%
Northern Mariana Islands*	\$600,000	\$505,902		84.32%
Ohio	\$27,910,326	\$24,233,066		86.82%
Oklahoma	\$11,036,835	\$1,865,970		16.91%
Oregon	\$12,392,029	\$9,080,934		73.28%
Pennsylvania	\$30,857,563	\$21,582,832		69.94%
Puerto Rico	\$7,818,846	\$1,027,076		13.14%
Rhode Island	\$7,216,180	\$3,772,470		52.28%
South Carolina	\$13,918,871	\$8,982,925		64.54%
South Dakota	\$6,000,000	\$2,967,020		49.45%
Tennessee	\$17,404,566	\$7,383,132		42.42%
Texas	\$53,691,543	\$36,365,173		67.73%
U.S. Virgin Islands	\$1,400,000	\$1,027,815		73.42%
Utah	\$9,728,717	\$2,689,622		27.65%
Vermont	\$7,000,000	\$2,554,837		36.5%
Virginia	\$20,868,787	\$9,223,357		44.2%
Washington	\$18,246,082	\$9,067,839		50.30%
West Virginia	\$8,666,930	\$7,205,257		83.14%
Wisconsin	\$16,019,045	\$9,848,822		61.48%
Wyoming	\$7,000,000	\$3,417,159		48.82%
Total	\$874,067,280	\$474,541,867		54.29%
ES Funding Total M	linus FY22	\$804,978,600		
% Expended as of 9	/30/22	_58.95%		

<sup>\*</sup> Annual Report Not Submitted as of 1/10/2023 (expenditure amount based on most recent submitted FFR)

## Section 101

STATE		AWARD	EXPENDED	PERCENT EXPENDED	
0	Alabama	\$4,989,605	\$4,823,431		96.67%
0	California	\$26,874,597	\$26,874,597		100%
0	Georgia	\$7,816,328	\$7,816,328		100%
	Hawaii	\$5,000,000	\$4,224,745		84.49%
0	Illinois	\$11,129,030	\$11,105,074		99.78%
0	Indiana*	\$6,230,481	\$6,230,481		100%
	Kansas	\$5,000,000	\$4,040,484		80.81%
	Kentucky	\$4,699,196	\$4,699,196		100%
•	Michigan	\$9,207,323	\$9,207,323		100%
0	New Hampshire	\$5,000,000	\$3,665,433		73.31%

## Section 101

STATE	AWARD	EXPENDED	PERCENT EXPENDED	
New York	\$16,494,325	\$13,313,402		80.72%
North Carolina	\$7,887,740	\$7,887,740		100%
Puerto Rico	\$3,151,144	\$3,151,144		100%
South Carolina	\$4,652,412	\$4,652,412		100%
South Dakota	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000		100%
Tennessee	\$6,004,507	\$6,004,507		100%
Texas	\$17,206,595	\$17,206,595		100%
Wyoming	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000		100%
Total	\$151,343,283	\$144,902,892		95.74%

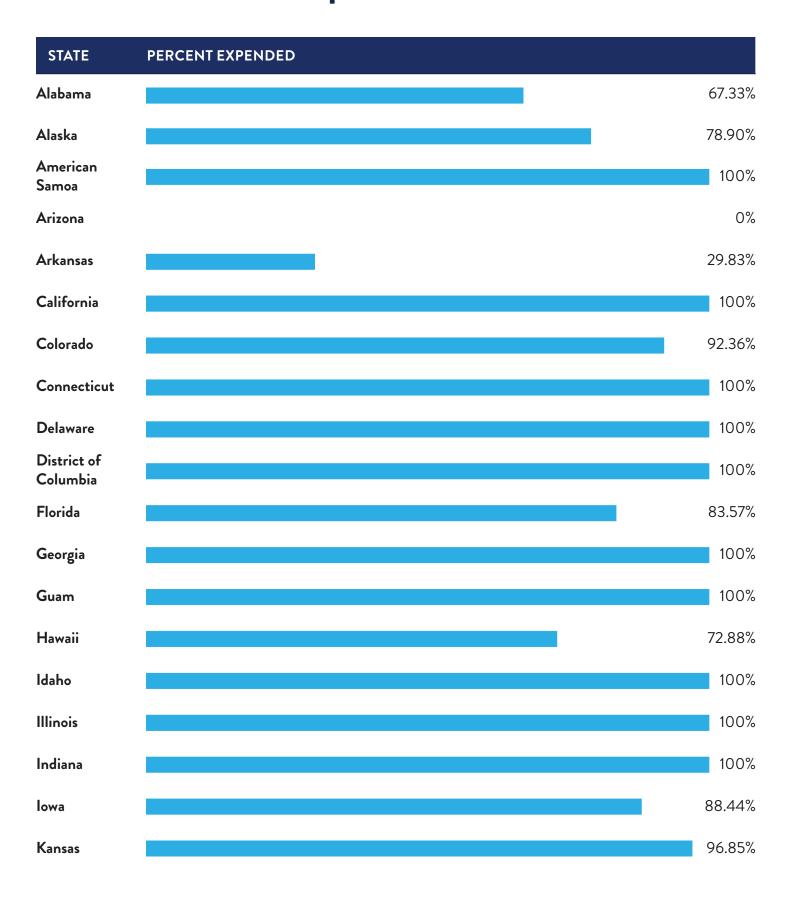
## 251 Requirement Payments

STATE	AWARD	EXPENDED	PERCENT EXPENDED	
Alabama	\$40,247,219	\$40,227,898		99.95%
Alaska	\$13,021,803	\$12,494,299		95.95%
Arizona	\$45,516,688	\$45,516,688		100%
California	\$296,305,593	\$290,974,561		98.20%
Colorado	\$38,767,048	\$38,488,851		99.28%
Florida	\$148,633,048	\$148,633,048		100%
Georgia	\$72,641,827	\$68,140,405		93.8%
Guam	\$2,319,361	\$2,319,361		100%
Hawaii	\$13,028,257	\$13,028,257		100%
Illinois	\$110,597,147	\$109,546,248		99.05%
Indiana	\$54,440,282	\$47,816,534		87.83%
Kansas	\$24,033,425	\$24,033,425		100%
Kentucky	\$36,919,261	\$31,949,490		86.54%
Maine	\$13,028,257	\$13,028,257		100%
Massachusetts	\$58,589,549	\$43,259,154		73.83%
Minnesota	\$43,962,194	\$43,962,194		100%
Mississippi	\$25,164,294	\$25,164,294		100%

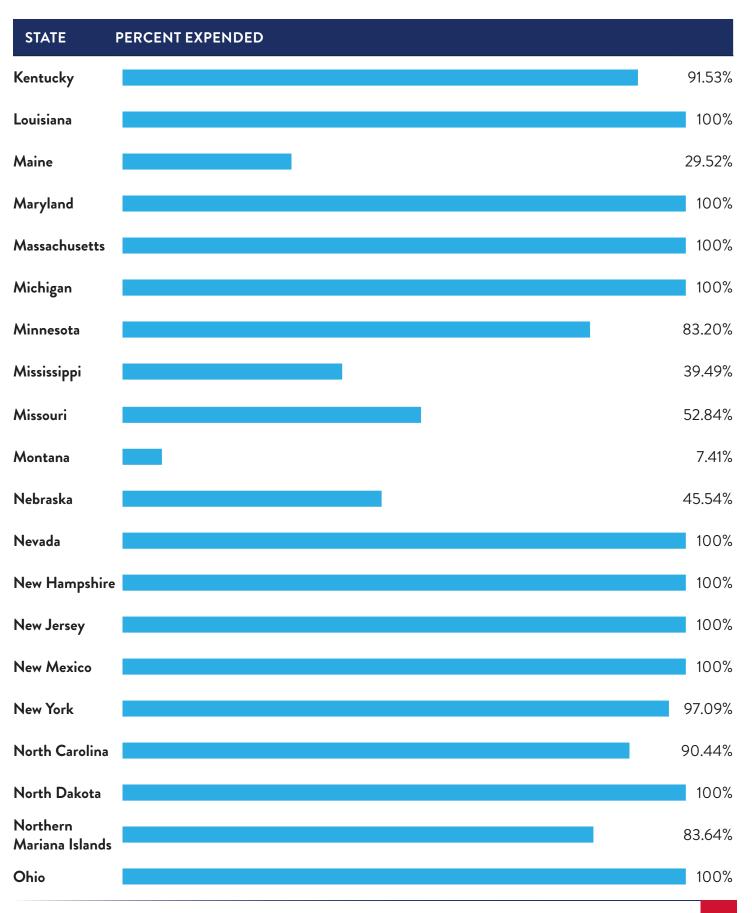
## 251 Requirement Payments

STATE	AWARD	EXPENDED	PERCENT EXPENDED	
New Hampshire	\$13,028,257	\$10,719,408		82.28%
New York	\$172,076,865	\$171,263,270		99.53%
North Carolina*	\$73,460,046	\$72,626,686		98.87%
Oklahoma	\$31,043,081	\$31,043,081		100%
Pennsylvania	\$112,821,809	\$112,475,482		99.69%
Puerto Rico	\$5,868,252	\$5,840,968		99.54%
Rhode Island	\$13,028,257	\$13,028,257		100%
South Carolina	\$36,384,617	\$36,384,617		100%
South Dakota	\$13,028,257	\$13,028,257		100%
Tennessee	\$51,877,745	\$26,526,122		51.13%
Utah	\$18,491,597	\$17,905,798		96.83%
Vermont	\$12,453,257	\$11,229,495		90.17%
Washington	\$52,955,253	\$52,955,253		100%
West Virginia	\$17,184,961	\$17,103,971		99.53%
Total	\$1,660,917,506	\$1,590,713,629		95.8%

TATUS	AWARD	EXPENDITURES	FEDERAL FUNDS RETURNED	ADJUSTED FEDERAL AWARD
losed	\$6,498,674	\$4,375,717	\$2,122,957	\$4,375,717
losed	\$3,000,000	\$2,366,993	\$633,007	\$2,366,933
losed	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
losed	\$7,874,848	\$0	\$7,874,848	\$0
losed	\$4,719,034	\$1,407,917	\$3,311,117	\$1,407,917
losed	\$36,485,465	\$36,485,465	\$0	\$36,485,465
losed	\$6,691,472	\$6,180,003	\$511,469	\$6,180,003
losed	\$5,400,677	\$5,400,677	\$0	\$5,400,677
Progress	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
losed	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
losed	\$20,253,853	\$16,925,212	\$3,328,641	\$16,925,212
Progress	\$10,875,912	\$10,875,912	\$0`	\$10,875,912
losed	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
losed	\$3,295,842	\$2,401,884	\$893,958	\$2,401,884
losed	\$3,404,276	\$3,404,276	\$0	\$3,404,276
losed	\$13,966,097	\$13,966,097	\$0	\$13,966,097
Progress	\$8,013,610	\$8,013,610	\$0	\$8,013,610
Progress	\$4,859,545	\$4,297,664	\$561,881	\$4,297,664
losed	\$4,622,500	\$4,477,003	\$145,497	\$4,477,003
	osed osed osed osed osed osed osed osed	\$3,000,000  \$5,874,848  \$6,691,472  \$6,691,472  \$6,691,472  \$13,000,000  \$13,000,000  \$20,253,853  Progress  \$10,875,912  \$600,000  \$3,295,842  \$3,404,276  \$13,966,097  Progress  \$4,859,545	osed         \$3,000,000         \$2,366,993           osed         \$600,000         \$600,000           osed         \$7,874,848         \$0           osed         \$4,719,034         \$1,407,917           osed         \$36,485,465         \$36,485,465           osed         \$6,691,472         \$6,180,003           osed         \$5,400,677         \$5,400,677           Progress         \$3,000,000         \$3,000,000           osed         \$20,253,853         \$16,925,212           Progress         \$10,875,912         \$10,875,912           osed         \$600,000         \$600,000           osed         \$3,295,842         \$2,401,884           osed         \$13,966,097         \$13,966,097           Progress         \$8,013,610         \$8,013,610           Progress         \$4,859,545         \$4,297,664	osed         \$6,498,674         \$4,375,717         \$2,122,957           osed         \$3,000,000         \$2,366,993         \$633,007           osed         \$600,000         \$600,000         \$0           osed         \$7,874,848         \$0         \$7,874,848           osed         \$4,719,034         \$1,407,917         \$3,311,117           osed         \$36,485,465         \$36,485,465         \$0           osed         \$6,691,472         \$6,180,003         \$511,469           osed         \$5,400,677         \$5,400,677         \$0           Progress         \$3,000,000         \$3,000,000         \$0           osed         \$20,253,853         \$16,925,212         \$3,328,641           Progress         \$10,875,912         \$10,875,912         \$0^*           osed         \$600,000         \$600,000         \$0           osed         \$3,295,842         \$2,401,884         \$893,958           osed         \$13,966,097         \$13,966,097         \$0           Progress         \$8,013,610         \$8,013,610         \$0           Progress         \$4,859,545         \$4,297,664         \$561,881



STATE	STATUS	AWARD	EXPENDITURES	FEDERAL FUNDS RETURNED	ADJUSTED FEDERAL AWARD
Kentucky	Closed	\$6,090,061	\$5,574,372	\$516,096	\$5,574,372
Louisiana	Closed	\$6,212,616	\$6,212,616	\$0	\$6,212,616
Maine	Closed	\$3,299,827	\$974,099	\$2,325,728	\$974,099
Maryland	Closed	\$7,452,501	\$7,452,501	\$0	\$7,452,501
Massachusetts	Closed	\$8,325,918	\$8,325,918	\$0	\$8,325,918
Michigan	Closed	\$11,299,561	\$11,299,561	\$0	\$11,299,561
Minnesota	In Progress	\$6,958,233	\$5,789,510	\$1,168,723	\$5,789,510
Mississippi	Closed	\$4,728,037	\$1,866,934	\$2,861,103	\$1,866,934
Missouri	Closed	\$7,628,763	\$4,030,794	\$3,597,969	\$4,030,794
Montana	Closed	\$3,000,000	\$222,373	\$2,777,627	\$222,373
Nebraska	Closed	\$3,686,252	\$1,678,779	\$2,007,473	\$1,678,779
Nevada	Closed	\$4,496,720	\$4,496,720	\$0	\$4,496,720
New Hampshire	Closed	\$3,269,494	\$3,269,494	\$0	\$3,269,494
New Jersey	Closed	\$10,296,913	\$10,296,913	\$0	\$10,296,913
New Mexico	Closed	\$3,889,527	\$3,889,527	\$0	\$3,889,527
New York	Closed	\$20,567,088	\$19,968,435	\$598,653	\$19,968,435
North Carolina	In Progress	\$10,947,139	\$9,900,924	\$0	\$9,900,924
North Dakota	Closed	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$0	\$3,000,000
Northern Mariana Islands	In Progress	\$600,000	\$501,847	\$98,153	\$501,847
Ohio	Closed	\$12,861,311	\$12,861,311	\$0	\$12,861,311

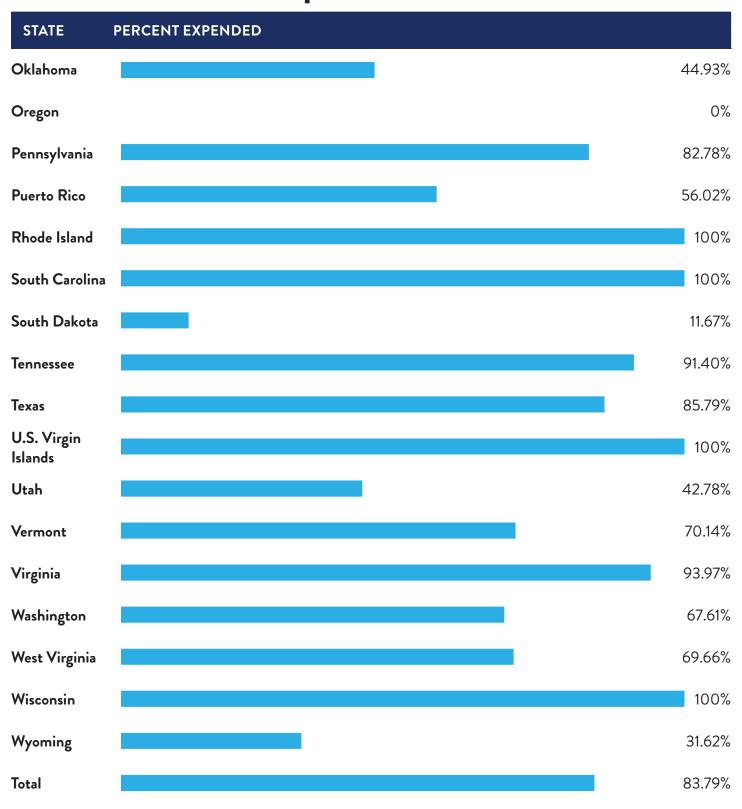


STATE	STATUS	AWARD	EXPENDITURES	FEDERAL FUNDS RETURNED	ADJUSTED FEDERAL AWARD
Oklahoma	Closed	\$2,730,486	\$1,226,866	\$1,503,620	\$1,226,866
Oregon	Closed	\$5,656,663	\$0	\$5,656,663	\$0
Pennsylvania	Closed	\$14,223,603	\$11,774,326	\$2,449,277	\$11,774,326
Puerto Rico	In Progress	\$3,881,359	\$2,174,443	\$1,706,916	\$2,174,443
Rhode Island	Closed	\$3,022,037	\$3,022,037	\$0	\$3,022,037
South Carolina	Closed	\$6,372,386	\$6,372,386	\$0	\$6,372,386
South Dakota	Closed	\$3,000,000	\$350,024	\$2,649,976	\$350,024
Tennessee	In Progress	\$7,982,281	\$7,295,487	\$686,794	\$7,295,281
Texas	In Progress	\$24,546,840	\$21,058,300	\$0	\$21,058,300
U.S. Virgin Islands	Closed	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$0	\$600,000
Utah	Closed	\$4,321,708	\$1,848,848	\$2,472,860	\$1,848,848
Vermont	Closed	\$3,000,000	\$2,104,112	\$895,888	\$2,104,112
Virginia	Closed	\$9,582,344	\$9,004,555	\$577,789	\$9,004,555
Washington	Closed	\$8,343,778	\$5,641,571	\$2,702,207	\$5,641,571
West Virginia	In Progress	\$3,807,691	\$2,652,609	\$1,155,082	\$2,652,609
Wisconsin	Closed	\$7,362,345	\$7,362,345	\$0	\$7,362,345
Wyoming	Closed	\$3,000,000	\$948,731	\$2,051,269	\$948,731
Total		\$397,205,287	\$332,827,698	\$59,843,240	\$332,827,698

**Closed** – Closeout is complete. The state has completed closeout requirements, submitted final reports, and returned any unexpended federal funds or interest.

**In Progress** – Closeout is in progress. The state has submitted final reporting and is in the process of completing closeout activities, including submission of certification letter, and return of any unexpended federal funds and interest.

Open - Closeout has not started. State has not submitted final reports.



<sup>\*</sup> The total expended is based on 2020 data. FY2021 data is pending as of 1/7/2022.

Original awarded total less unrequested: \$397,205,288.

Five states did not request their full allocations. Total unrequested = \$2,794,714

Returned Federal Funds to date: \$59,843,240

Estimated Federal Debt Collection Remaining: \$4,534,348



#### **U.S. Election Assistance Commission**

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